

PC Update

May 1997

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PUBLISHING

FEATURES

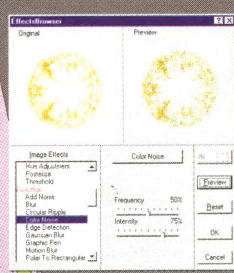
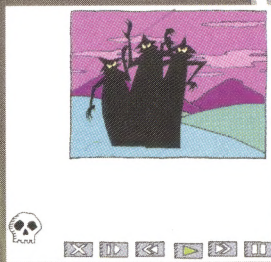
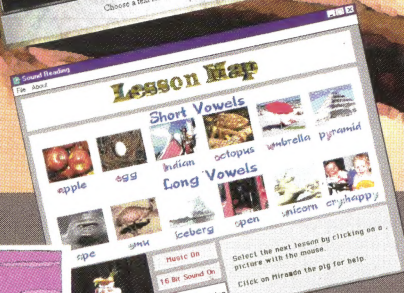
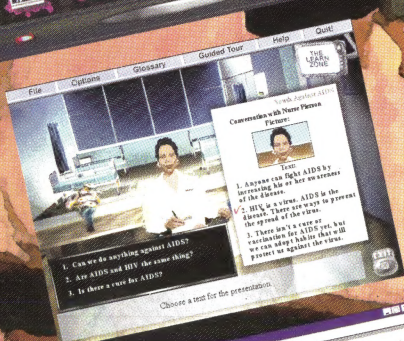
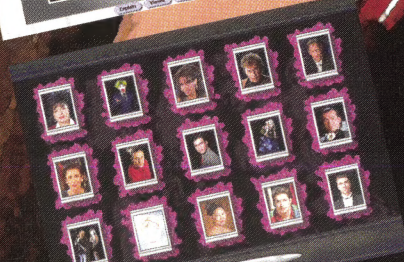
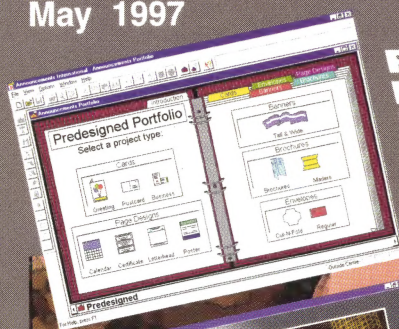
Digital Music

Basic Programming

Setting up a network

Getting the most from your CD & Win 95

Maybe a mailing list will be just right



REVIEWS

Adobe Acrobat 3

Corel VENTURA 7

Small Business Graphics & Print Studio

Life Science Mysteries

Sound Reading

Dr Seuss's ABC

Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth

The Neverhood

The Neverhood

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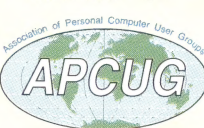
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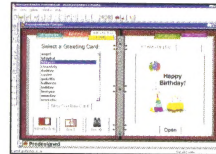
Reviews

8 Adobe Acrobat 3

According to Bob Burt, Acrobat has the potential to supercede PostScript in most applications.

10 Parsons Technology Home Productivity Tools

Bob Burt looks at another couple of releases in this new series.



12 Compton's Interactive Encyclopaedia: 1997 ed.

Bernadette Houghton likes its content and value.



14 Sound Reading

Bob Burt reviews this system, designed to teach reading and elocution skills to students ten years and over.



23 For the bookshelf

Bob Burt looks at the Internet for Investors.



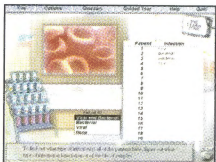
40 Corel VENTURA 7

Peter Smith has a first dip into this update, deciding that the benefits will be worth the conversion pains.



49 Life Science Mysteries: The Naked Eye

Bernadette Houghton thinks that learning is fun with this CD, part of a Corel series.



50 Small Business Graphics and Print Studio

Bernadette Houghton is impressed by this low-cost, high-value publishing package.

53 Breastfeeding

Another of the Corel Medical series CD-ROMs. Bernadette Houghton says this would have helped in her early motherhood days.



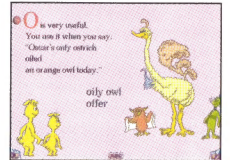
54 Mode

Bob Burt plays a game for the adult "kids" — once you've finished the three CDs, there's more on the Web.

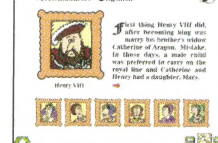


55 Seuss's ABC

Bernadette Houghton like Dr Seuss just as much as her kids do!



58 Renaissance England



58 Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth

Bernadette Houghton didn't enjoy Macbeth at school, but this CD-ROM is a different matter.



59 The Neverhood

Bob Burt likes the animation and lighting effects and says the game will appeal to all ages.



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June	Information Management (Database, PIMs, Spreadsheets)	5 May	7 May	9 May	30 May
July	SOHO	2 Jun	4 Jun	6 Jun	27 Jun
August	Operating Systems (Windows NT, 95, 3.x, DOS, OS/2, UNIX)	7 Jul	9 Jul	11 Jul	1 Aug
September	PCs and the Professions (Financial, Legal, Architecture, Medical, etc.)	4 Aug	6 Aug	8 Aug	29 Aug

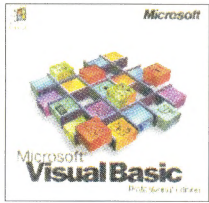
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John Bracey continues his tutorial.

20 Tips and tricks

More useful information from George Skarbek.



22 Seeing the Basics: Printer and Screen Fonts and WYSIWYG
Tony Stevenson's series continues.

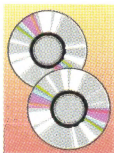
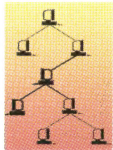
24 Basic basics Part 3
More from John M Graham for new programmers..

26 Are you looking SCSI lately?

Part 2 of a series by Fred Townsend, explaining SCSI.

29 Setting up a network

Alec McConnell finds it easy, with the right-coloured cables.



38 Get the most from your computer's CD player and Win 95
Frank Schuffelen plays with the CD Player.

41 Of toads and old computers

Jan Harkin says that bigger and brighter isn't always better.

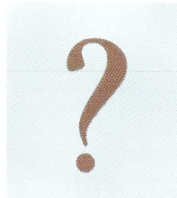


46 Maybe a mailing list will be just right

Carol Daniels gives the basics on mailing lists.

61 Peter's PC Update Puzzle

Another brain-teaser from Peter Smith. Solve it and be in the running to win a Corel CD-ROM.



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WORKING WRITER'S WORDS

Carol Daniels



There's no question that computers are changing the way we communicate. It's even reviving the art of letter writing, although sometimes it seems that it's doing so without also improving the overall literacy level at the same time.

Electronic communication is easy, fast and efficient. Sometimes too efficient. At least sometimes seems that the efficiency of the medium overrides all the other communication considerations.

Electronic communication has even introduced a new level of efficiency. All those emoticons (also called smileys) acronyms and initialisms that populate e-mail messages are also creeping into formal writing. Although I do use these space, time and keystroke saving devices in my e-mail messages, I don't advocate using them in other forms of communication.

It's interesting too, how these devices once added spice and individualism to online writing, but now they seem to do the opposite. Then someone adds spectacles, a goatee or a top hat to a standard emoticon, or coins a new version of a standard initialism and livens up the scene.

A week or so ago, I was participating in a teleconference with some of my fellow Association of PC User Group (APCUG) representatives, when the Chair of our group, Judy Lococo—of Louisville, Kentucky—wrote,

"What can I say, WYALLSIWYALLG," which we all immediately knew meant, "What you'll see is what you'll get!"

That's the kind of spontaneous originality that e-mail inspires. Of course in a more formal environment it might not have been as well received. It was just right for that particular time and situation.

Another variation on that theme that I've been seeing lately is WYSIWYP, or what you see is what you print. For black text on white paper, printing from desktop publishing or modern high end word processing programs, the distinction between WYSIWYP and WYSIWYG can be small. It wasn't always that way and even today, if you're printing in colour or printing complex graphics, the difference between what you see on screen and what you print, is sometimes

visible, by even untrained eyes.

Nevertheless, WYSIWYG is good enough for most of us. It was one of the most liberating developments in the road to modern publishing. Computers and the bells and whistles that accompanied the computer revolution, broke down many barriers to publishing, even print publications, like this one. As many readers already know, the *PC Update* team makes extensive use of electronic communication in the production of the magazine. It would be very difficult to do it any other way.

In a few minutes I'm going to download a couple of last minute submissions to *PC Update*, edit them and upload them. Then I'll finish my editorial, and upload that too. So that Peter Smith can do the layout.

Nothing out of the ordinary, really, except that this month I'm writing my editorial from my hotel room in Atlanta Georgia, where I've been attending an APCUG planning meeting. During the meeting various APCUG representatives took notes, checked references, made charts and drew time lines on the fly. Often our work in progress was displayed on a large-screen projector, so we could watch things develop. At the end of each day we had a printed summary of the day's agreements and achievements, along with an updated agenda for the next day. All the technology worked, virtually trouble free.

Not earth shattering I know. In fact, the amazing thing about it was the sheer ordinariness of it all. Even more amazing is the ease with which we publish today, and the variety of formats available to us. Whether you are publishing on disk, CD-ROM, newsgroups, mailing lists, the web, portable document formats—such as Adobe's PDF or Corel's Envoy—or even on plain, old-fashioned paper, things just seem to get easier to do every day.

If you have something to say—and a computer, a word processing, DTP program, HTML know-how, or one of the portable document formatting programs and a printer—there's no excuse for not saying it.

Electronic publications can be nifty, sometimes superior to printed publications. For reference material, if well indexed, with search capabilities,

**I don't
like to read
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know anyone
who does**

electronic publications can simplify and speed many research tasks. But I don't especially like to read online, and I don't know anyone who does.

So while I believe electronic publications are useful, and will become even more so in the future, I don't see an immediate threat to printed books, newspapers and magazines etc, despite almost daily predictions of the demise of the printed word.

I still prefer printed materials for most things. I print web pages I want to refer to later. I print e-mail messages that contain action items I'm liable to forget. And I print everything I write for editing and proof reading.

I'm not basing that predicting based on my personal preference for printed materials alone. I'm basing it on the ever growing number of books and magazines on the shelves each day. It's funny, but even the number of books extolling the virtues of electronic publishing is growing each day.

One final item on the issue of proof reading

Last month Stan wrote that Ash would be continuing with his proof reading role for *PC Update*. He won't be, and we do need someone to take on that role. We need someone who has some proof-reading experience, and who is able to commit to being available during the *PC Update* production period each month. If you are interested please contact me via the BBS or the Internet. □

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Adobe Acrobat 3

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bob Burt



Adobe Systems is the creator of *PostScript*, which has developed as a highly successful system for device-independent printing.

That is to say, *PostScript*, which is both a page-description language and an interpreter, produces files which can be printed from a range of platforms, including Windows, Windows NT, Macintosh and UNIX.

Acrobat extends the concept of across-platform availability to viewing and managing documents onscreen. Using *Acrobat*, you can create documents in virtually any application on any computer system and convert them to the transportable *Adobe Portable Document Format* (PDF) without quality degradation. Such PDF files can be viewed, navigated, copied and printed with *Acrobat Reader*, which is available from the Internet, for example, free of charge.

The package

Acrobat 3 comes on two CD-ROMs, one for the *Acrobat* creative applications, the other for the *Acrobat Reader* and a range of explanatory PDF files. Printed documentation is very sparse, comprising a 30-page *Getting Started* manual, but this is adequate for its purpose. The documentation on disc is very extensive, however, and all in PDF style. There is, for example, a 400-page book entitled *Internet Publishing*

with *Acrobat 3* by Gordon Kent and an impressively illustrated booklet, entitled *Introduction to Electronic Publishing*. A very handy *Quick Tour of Adobe Acrobat* provides some introductory lessons on the key features of *Acrobat*. By the way, the online help provided in all the *Acrobat* applications is in PDF style.

QuickTime, which is required to play movies embedded in PDF documents is also available on disc. Likewise, *Adobe Type Manager* can be installed separately. It is not required to use any of the *Acrobat* components, but, when it is installed, you can avoid using TrueType fonts. Unlike the *Adobe Type 1* fonts, TrueType fonts provide text which is both unsearchable and unselectable, which in many situations would be an unacceptable restriction.

Installation

The instructions are simple to follow, but you do have to decide which components to install, bearing in mind that the hard disk space required can be substantial. For example, my installation used up 3 percent of my new 2.1 GB disk. You also have to watch out for linked components. For example, the *Capture* plug-in requires both *Acrobat Exchange* and *PDF Writer*. You also need to select the driver that matches the scanner that you expect to use, although if you don't

mind being liberal with hard disk space you can select all the available drivers!

The application *Distiller Assistant* is a very useful component of *Acrobat*, since it allows you to print directly to *Acrobat Distiller*, thus creating comprehensive PDF files with ease. The snag is that to use the Assistant you need close to 20 MB of application RAM plus the amount of RAM required to run the program generating the document. There is no point in installing it unless you have at least 20 MB—more would be much better.

During installation, a great deal of activity occurs behind the scenes. For example, establishing links to your word processing and spreadsheet applications and installing *PDF Writer* as a "printer."

The Acrobat applications

The main suite of applications comprises

- *Acrobat Exchange*—to view and modify PDF files
- *Acrobat Distiller*—to create PDF files from *PostScript* files
- *Acrobat Distiller Assistant*—to streamline PDF file creation
- *Acrobat Catalog*—to build full-text indexes of PDF file collections
- *Acrobat PDF Writer*—to create simple PDF files from your standard documents
- *Acrobat Reader*—to read, copy or print PDF files

Info Box

Adobe Acrobat 3

Minimum system requirements

- 386, 486 or Pentium processor-based PC
- MS Windows 3.1 or later, or Windows 95
- 8 MB RAM for *Acrobat Reader*
- 8 MB RAM for *Acrobat Exchange*
- 8 MB RAM for *Acrobat Catalog*
- 16 MB RAM for *Acrobat Distiller*
- 16 MB RAM for *Acrobat Capture* plug-in (also needs 486 or Pentium processor-based PC)
- CD-ROM drive

Availability and cost

Available from most large software suppliers

RRP: \$395, Shop around for prices up to \$100 less than that.

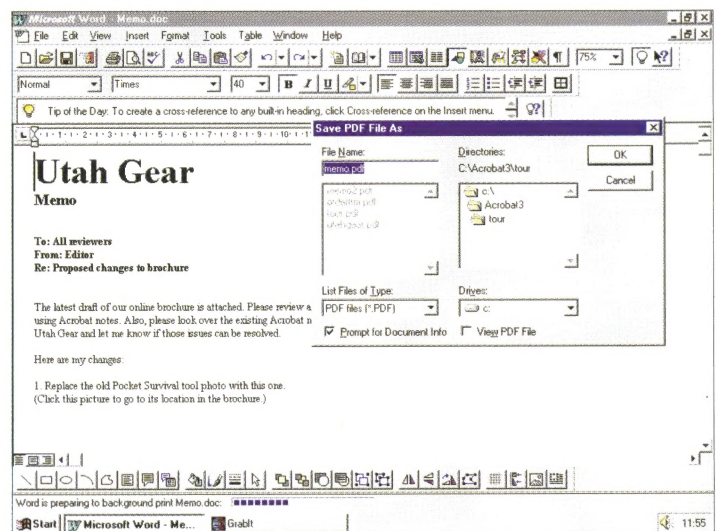


Figure 1. Converting an MS Word memo to PDF with *PDF Writer*.

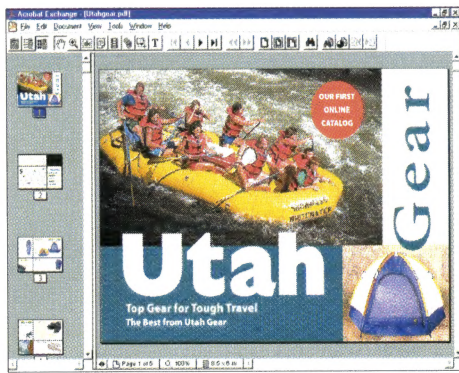


Figure 2. A PDF file for editing, displayed in Acrobat Exchange.

Additionally, many features of Acrobat are plug-ins (for Acrobat Exchange), including

- Acrobat Scan—to use the Scan command in Exchange together with a scanner to convert paper documents to PDF Image Only files
- Acrobat Capture—to convert scanned documents into visually faithful searchable and editable documents
- Acrobat Import Image—to import a range of raster-image file formats
- Acrobat TouchUp—to perform single-line text editing
- Acrobat Movie—to add pointers to movie files or sound files in PDF documents
- Acrobat AutoIndex—to automatically add indexes to your Index Selection dialog
- Acrobat ExecMenu—to create links that access any menu item in the Acrobat viewer
- Acrobat Search—to search full-text indexes created with Catalog
- Acrobat Forms—to create and fill in electronic forms
- Acrobat Weblink—to create links to the Web
- Acrobat Optimizer—to reduce the size of PDF files by removing redundant copies of images and background graphics

Other plug-ins are available from third parties for such things as automating link creation, serving PDF files as OLE documents and teleconferencing.

Using Acrobat

As a new user you would need a fairly considerable amount of time to become reasonably familiar with this product, particularly if you expect to use most of the resources that it provides. Where do you start? I suggest it is well worth spending the time to read the introductory material provided as PDF files and to take more than a glance or two at the more comprehensive documents provided. Using Acrobat Reader for this purpose is a simple step and you will see plenty of

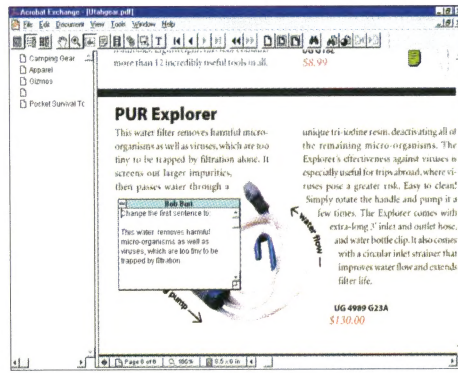


Figure 3. Adding a Note to a PDF file.

examples of good presentations.

You should complete the tutorial, which will provide you with the confidence to progress further. It will establish for you that the key program for development of PDF files is Acrobat Exchange. You would initially prepare your documents with your favourite word processor or desktop publisher, with graphics imported after creation by your graphics software or selection from a graphics library. Movie and sound files are not imported. They simply require links to be established, but you must not forget that the PDF files you create must be accompanied by the movie and sound files when they are transported to another computer system, written to a CD-ROM or used as a series of Web pages on the Internet.

The PDF Writer is useful to quickly convert a document (which may contain simple graphics) from within your word processor, spreadsheet or desktop publisher to a PDF file, but for more extensive or complex documentation you would use Distiller, which normally creates much more compact files. It produces the best results for high quality publications. To use it, you would first ensure that the Adobe PostScript Printer Driver is installed and then add Distiller to your list of installed printers. You first create a PostScript file, then convert the file to PDF with Distiller.

New features

Version 3 of Acrobat carries a considerable range of new and improved features.

PDF creation has been enhanced by improving the capacity to compress images and fonts and control printing information.

The viewing features have been expanded. You can integrate with Web browsers, open and convert image files, add actions to links, bookmarks, pages and form fields and create and fill out forms.

More control is provided for PDF display on-screen. You can open documents with settings suitable for tutorials, help and kiosk applications and you can

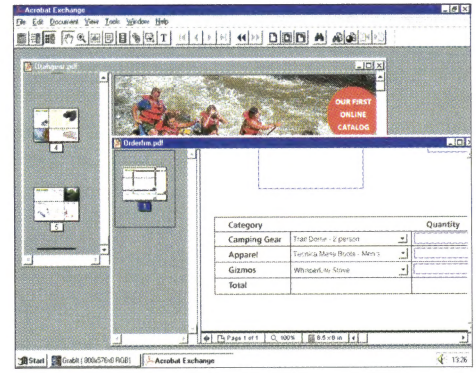


Figure 4. Adding a thumbnail (and entire file) of a PDF Form to an earlier PDF file.

... PDF system may be sufficiently advanced to supercede unadorned PostScript

effect continuous scrolling between pages.

More actions can be assigned to links, bookmarks and form buttons. Links to other PDF files open in the same window, thus avoiding the stacking of multiple windows. You can also create buttons and regions in your PDF files to initiate actions such as playing movies and sounds, navigating and executing a menu item.

Conclusion

Acrobat 3 has been promoted as a valuable package for the creation of documents on the Internet (World Wide Web) and other online systems. However, it may well be that the PDF system is sufficiently advanced to supercede unadorned PostScript, in part at least, for the printing market. Of course, at print time, the PDF file will convert to a PostScript stream. Perhaps the greatest of a number of benefits which PDF files would bring to such a procedure is that one consistent format would be made available for printing. □

Parsons Technology Home Productivity Tools

SOFTWARE REVIEW



Bob Burt

Last month we introduced a couple of titles from Parsons Technology, a registered trademark of *Intuit*, the producer of the popular financial software *Quicken*.

Parsons Technology *Home Productivity Tools* are available on CD-ROM and run under Windows 3.1+ or Windows 95.

Here are two more examples of what Parsons Technology offers.

Announcements International 1.1

This is a very handy "no hassles" graphics program for the quick preparation and printing of a range of commonly used printed materials. The choice includes folded greetings cards, calendars, banners, illustrated envelopes, cut-n-fold envelopes, multiple certificate forms, business cards, letterheads, tri-fold brochures (printed both sides), posters and mailers.

The program is equipped with 50 document templates and 200 clipart graphics images. You can select a template and adapt it to your needs by replacing text and graphics images and

Availability and cost

Local prices not available at time of printing, the equivalent products in the United States are as follows

Announcements International US\$29
QV — New King James Version US\$29

modifying the dimensions as required, or you can start from scratch if you so wish.

The opening screen, described rather elegantly as the *Portfolio*, is a graphical display of the various formats available. You click on the format you wish to use and progress from there. A standard Windows-style menu bar offers the expected range of menus, which contain some subtleties not expected in such an automated program. For example, you can modify selected images to produce blur, mosaic and embossing in addition to the expected lightening or darkening effects and you can tilt them to whatever angle you wish. Unfortunately you cannot tilt text, unless you are prepared to first generate a text-based graphics file (which you can do quite easily with Windows Paint, for example) and use that graphics file as your text source. The Parsons Web site (<http://www.parsonstech.com>) says that the American version (Announcements 5.0) sensibly provides for tilting of text and will even format it into columns. Both the International and American versions have a built-in spell checker.

The images provided on the CD-ROM are in either PCX or WMF format, but you can call upon others which are accessible to you in other formats, including BMP, EPS, CGM, PNG and PSD.

Installing in the most economical fashion requires less than 2 MB of your valuable hard disk space.

QuickVerse 4.0 Family Reference Bible

The Bible referred to in this title is the New King James Version, a modern translation of the old *Textus Receptus* text. Wrapped around it is the access program with its study tools, including around 5000 prepared footnotes backed up by outlines, pictures and charts.

After starting the program, the opening screen appears with the New King James translation and the *Believer's Study Bible* notes open. The latter offers an outline of each book of the Bible, detailing its author, when it was written and its theme. The verse notes provide support information on specific passages. Many of these contain cross-references.

All the maps, charts and pictures are listed in a *Table of Contents*. You can access all these by first going to Genesis 1:1, selecting *Note | Chapter Note* from the *Notes* menu and then double-clicking on the coloured texts, which act as direct links to the pictures. You can jump to a referenced map, chart or picture in similar fashion.

Eleven menus are provided. These are easily explored to determine what they do, although in most situations this is obvious. For the most frequently used actions there are 19 toolbar buttons and again, careful exploration will quickly confirm their functions. Online help is provided if you are in doubt.

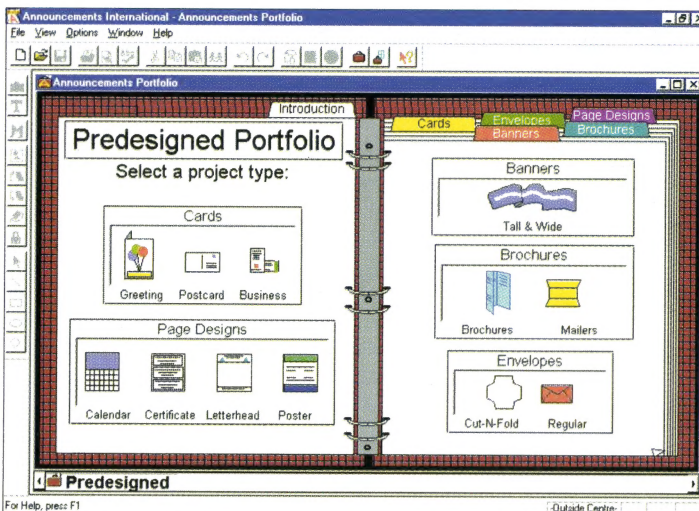


Figure 1. The predesigned portfolio.

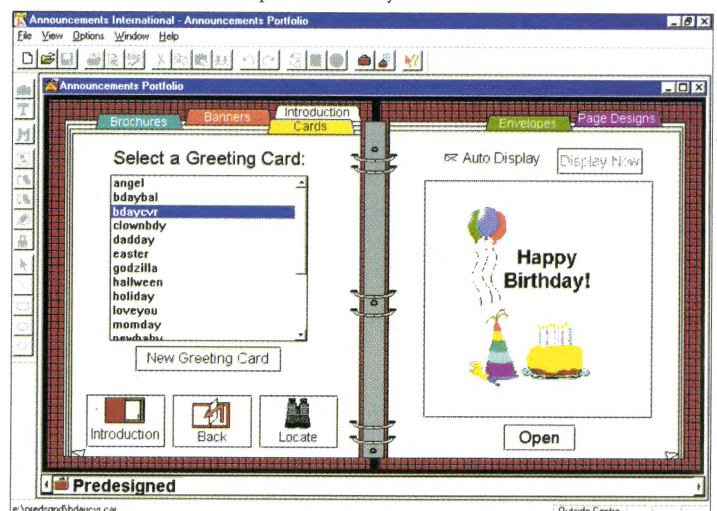


Figure 2. Preparing a birthday card.

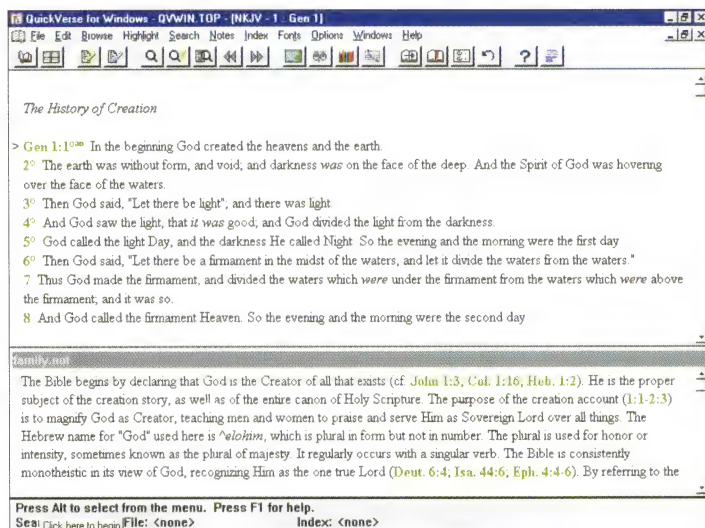


Figure 3. Displaying text and commentary.

QuickVerse provides a *Bible Reading Schedule* feature. With it you can set up to four Bible reading plans for specific periods, using the chapters you want to read during that time.

You can save verses in a text file, create and open Notes files or transfer verses to a word processor. You have plenty of flexibility for the last option, since you can use *Copy* and *Paste*, employ DDE or simply import a prepared text file. Techniques can be easily

developed to write lessons or sermons or simply to prepare notes.

An indexing feature is provided. With this you can create your own index system for storing related verses. The topical index is a list of verse references that can be recalled. The verses can be searched, viewed, copied to the clipboard, placed in a text file or printed. Size and number are limited only by the amount of available disk space.

You can select Bible text, apply a

colour highlight to it and later search for the highlighted text.

Various add-on modules can be used with QuickVerse. *Strong's Concordance*, for example, is intended to be used as a guide for studying the Scriptures as they were written in their original languages.

QuickVerse is a powerful and flexible study tool which can be mastered by children preparing for, or following up, a Sunday School lesson or adults preparing more comprehensive studies. □

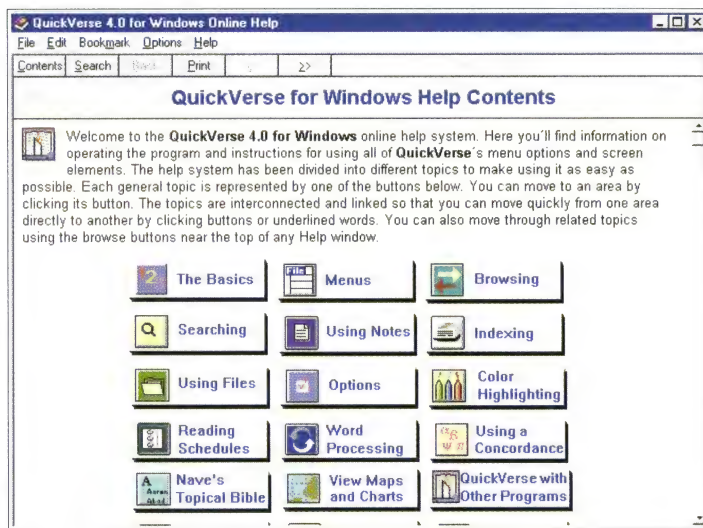


Figure 4. Online help.

Perfect 2000 IBM 6x86 P150+ CPU Intel Triton VX Chipset 256KB Pipeline Burst Cache 16MB EDO RAM 1.2GB EIDE Hard Drive 8 speed CD-ROM 16Bit Sound Card 50W multimedia Speaker Panasonic 1.44MB Floppy 1MB S3+ MPEG Video Card 14" N/I L/R Monitor 104 Windows 95 Keyboard Mitsumi Mouse & Pad Heavy Duty MidTower Model \$1350.00	Perfect 3000 Intel Pentium 150Mhz Intel Triton VX Chipset 256KB Pipeline Burst Cache 32MB EDO RAM 2.1GB EIDE Hard Drive 12 speed CD-ROM Sound Blaster 16 PnP 120W Multimedia Speaker Panasonic 1.44MB Floppy 2MB Diamond Stealth 3D 15" N/I L/R AcerView Monitor 104 Honeywell Keyboard Microsoft Mouse & Pad Heavy Duty MidTower Model \$2050.00	Perfect 4000 Intel Pentium PRO 180Mhz 256KB Level 2 Built-in Cache 32MB EDO RAM 3.2GB EIDE Hard Drive 16 speed CD-ROM Sound Blaster 32 300W Multimedia Speaker Panasonic 1.44MB Floppy 4MB ET6000 Video Card 17" XGA AcerView Monitor 104 Honeywell Keyboard Microsoft Mouse & Pad Heavy Duty MidTower Model Windows 95 Full Version CD \$3350.00	Reference Letter Dear Peter I am writing to you on behalf of my wife and I to thank you for your advise and time you gave to us when it came to purchase a computer suitable for our needs. We are very happy with our purchase and especially thankful for making our computer purchase simple in this complicated computer market. Your expertise and after-sales service make dealing with you a pleasure. I will also be recommending you to all my friends and family for their computer needs. Please feel free to use this letter as a reference. Yours Thankfully, Mr. & Mrs. Karedas. Munro Ave, Cheltenham 3192		
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Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia: 1997 edition

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



The 1997 edition of Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia (CIE97) has almost as many ways of finding information as there are ways to scoff a pie! And lurking behind the cluttered, yet attractive, interface is an extensive repertoire of articles, photos, videos and sound files.

Info Box

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia: 1997 edition

Minimum system requirements

- 486DX2-66
- 8 MB RAM (16 MB recommended)
- Windows 3.1
- Dos 5.0
- 256-colour VGA display
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- Sound card and mouse
- Depending on the installation options you select, you'll need between 486 KB and 31 MB of free hard disk space.

Availability and cost

Distributed by Dataflow,
Ph: (02) 9417 9700.
RRP: \$49.95

If you're interested in the statistics, let me quote from the packaging

- More than 37,000 engaging articles
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- Nearly 17 hours of brilliant sound and music.

After spending some time with CIE97, I have no reason to doubt these figures. The superlatives are not mine either, nor do I feel like quarreling with them!

CIE97's default screen view has three windows: the *Multimedia Viewer* for pictures, sounds and so on; the *Article Viewer* for text; and the *Path Viewer* which displays various entry paths into the encyclopaedia, such as the *Find Dialog*, *InfoLinks* or *Topic Tree* (Figure 1). If you don't like this arrangement, there are two alternative screen configurations that cut down slightly on the clutter. The Path Bar, along the left of the screen, is visible at all times.

To find something, select an entry path from the pull-down menu or the Path Bar. Depending on your selection, you'll be presented with a dialog box, map or list of choices. From here it's easy to narrow down your search and display your choices in either the Article or Multimedia Viewer. Articles include

visually attractive,

comprehensive,

easy to read,

terrific multimedia

extensive links to related material, including pictures, sounds, videos and World Wide Web sites; just click on the links and be transported away. It's deliciously easy to find yourself far afield from your original starting point. Nor need you worry; a *Backtrack* button retraces your steps page-by-page, a history list tells you where you've been and you can place bookmarks by the wayside. You can also cut and paste, send material to a printer or word processor, view outlines of articles and change the font size.



Figure 1. Default CIE97 screen, with Multimedia Viewer and Path Viewer on the left and Article Viewer on the right.



Figure 2. Exploring Grandma's Attic.

One of the strengths of CIE97 is the large number of ways to find information—or in CIE97 terminology, entry paths into the encyclopaedia. *Topic Tree* arranges topics hierarchically. *InfoLink* groups related articles. *Timeline* presents important world events, and *Atlas* displays maps of the world. *Explore* is quite intriguing; choose any of six locations, such as *Compton's Newsroom* or *Grandma's Attic*, then click on objects to view a random related multimedia file (Figure 2). A powerful *Find* feature enables you to create complex Boolean searches using parentheses as well as logical operators AND, OR, NOT, ADJ (adjacent) and three different NEAR operators. If you don't have much experience with Boolean logic, a *Search Builder* simplifies the process of creating complex searches (Figure 3). Results of searches present in order of relevance.

And there's more! *Exploring Questions* poses random questions that you can research in CIE97. *On This Date* lists important anniversaries, and *Picture Tour* takes you on a slideshow of the pictures in the encyclopaedia, complete with captions. There is a dictionary, a thesaurus and a Star Quest Game where you locate various astronomical objects in the night sky with a telescope. A presentation module, *Showmaker*, enables you to create multimedia presentations using material from CIE97 or your own JPEG or BMP files.

Two features are available only on Windows 95

platforms: *Planetarium*, where you view stars, nebulae and constellations from any point in the world and on any day of the year; and *Recent Events* which presents a slide show of important world events.

CIE97 claims to be up-to-date as of March 1996, but you can download new and updated articles from America Online. The software you need is on the CIE97 CD-ROM, along with a 15-hour/30-day free trial subscription. There is no World Wide Web access—nor, as far as I know, any plans for it—so you could be up for some hefty telephone charges if you do download from America Online.

As for other cons: the interface is sometimes quite confusing, with results of previous searches remaining on the screen. The maps are just bare-bone outlines of capital cities, states and countries, and the slide show of Australia shows aborigines looking remarkably like Maoris in features and dress!

I like CIE97. It's visually attractive, the information is comprehensive and easy to read and the multimedia is terrific. Besides this, there are heaps of ways to find information, whether you are looking for something particular or just want to dawdle. It runs well on my 486DX2-66 with 32 MB RAM and the Australian content—while sometimes a bit iffy—is more comprehensive than that of some other encyclopedias I've seen, including Encarta. The price is great, too—those days of \$300 CD-ROM encyclopaedias seem very far away. □

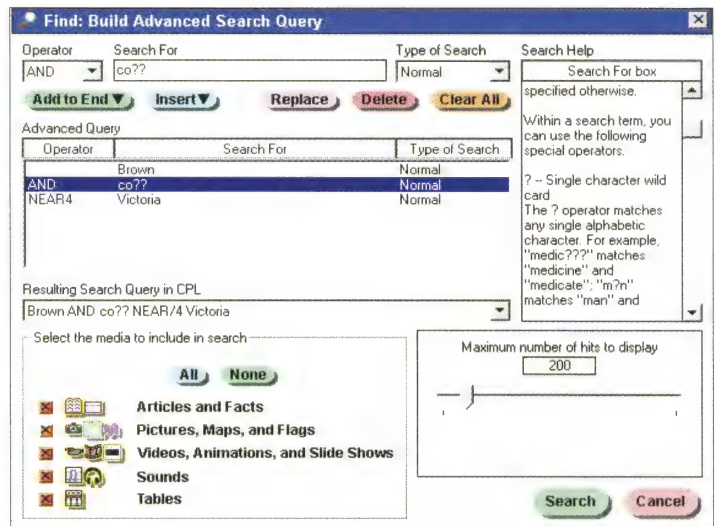


Figure 3. Build Advanced Search dialog.

- ✗ Who is the current Prime Minister of Australia?
- ✓ When and where was the printing press invented?
- ✓ What was the date of the Challenger space shuttle crash?
- ✓ Who was St. Patrick and what has he to do with 17 March?
- ✓ When and where was the ENIAC built?
- ✓ What was the original purpose of the Internet?
- ✗ When was John Dowland (lulist) born?
- ✗ Where was Daniel Mannix born?
- ✗ Who invented the Coolgardie safe?
- ✓ Are emus birds or animals?
- ✓ Who is the "father" of the detective novel?
- ✓ Charles Dickens left an unfinished work. What was it?
- ✓ A famous English novelist was interned in France in WWII. Who was it?
- ✓ Why is the sky blue?
- ✓ When will the comet Hale-Bopp be visible in the night sky?

Figure 4. Some of the questions asked of CIE97. CIE97 gave satisfactory answers to those with ticks.



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Sound Reading

SOFTWARE



Figure 1. Displaying the Lesson Map.

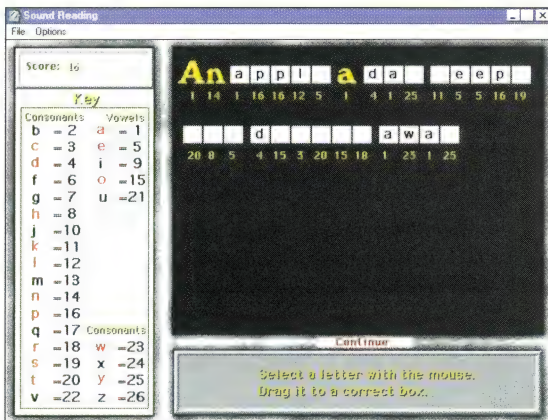


Figure 2. Codebreaker in action.

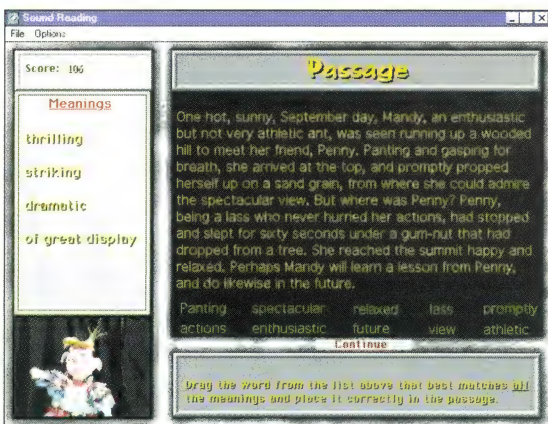


Figure 3. A Passage exercise.

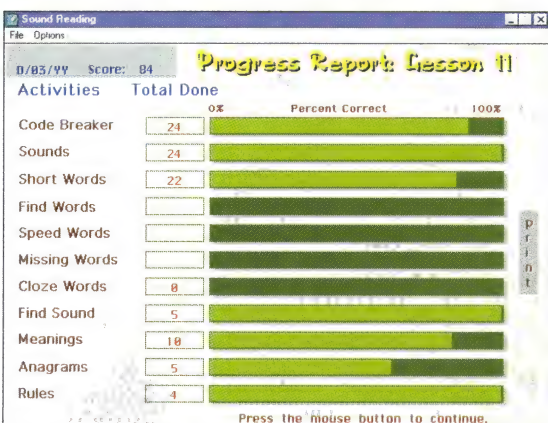


Figure 4. A Progress Report.

Sound Reading (SR) is a multimedia version of an already established reading course. Its objective is to improve the reading skills of its students, who the authors expect would be aged 10 years or above. Its design ensures it is a suitable teaching resource for both school or home.

The Course

SR is presented on three CD-ROMs

- Sound Reading—Short Single Vowels and Long Single Vowels
- Sound Reading—Double Consonants and Double Vowels
- Sound Reading—Advanced Structures

Each part represents about 25 hours of structured learning. However, only the first of these was made available for review, so I cannot comment on the other two disks, although it would be reasonable to assume a common style of presentation and reporting. The main features include

- Activity based learning within a structured course design
- Development of skills through a mix of familiar and new tasks
- Self-paced learning with the progressive introduction of more complex and difficult tasks
- Use of both phonics and whole language
- Incorporation of the student's voice within activities
- Grading and reporting of progress on demand

Using the Course

Setting up is quickly accomplished. You need you to install a special font and restart Windows to allow the font changes to occur. You keep the CD-ROM in its drive when using SR.

On starting the program, the *Main Map* screen appears, with 12 large icons representing each of the vowels in either long or short form. Why 12 icons, you may ask, when there are only 5 vowels? The answer is that the letter *y* has been included as it can behave as either a short or

a long vowel.

The logical way to use the program is to start at lesson one and work steadily through the sequence. The first lesson contains the most detailed help—where help is obtained by clicking on the image of Miranda. The response is invariably vocal rather than textual, but the early assistance results in a demonstration of the task or activity.

Each lesson comprises a range of exercises which include spelling and grammar hints, audio recognition, identification of key endings and words, word-building, anagrams, reading, comprehension, listening and memory activities. An activity which was new to me (by name, at least) was *Cloze*—what an ugly word! It transpires that this is a "fill the gaps in a sentence" exercise.

Some of the key features need further clarification

- The Alphabet button—signals a series of drill and practice exercises for the student to practise the sounds made by the different letters of the alphabet.
- Syllabication—another ugly word! At least this one has an accepted meaning and appears in standard reputable dictionaries. It is one of the main components of SR. According to the manual, it is the syllabication rules and strategies that form the basis of reading improvement. The *Practice* option enables you to practise the three syllabication rules. First, you drag and drop the divider between the correct letters of the proffered word and then you determine whether the vowel sound in the syllable is short or long.
- Codebreaker—this is a memory, letter and word recognition activity. Using the mouse, you drag each letter to its correct position amongst the code boxes. You hear each word as it is successfully completed and the entire sentence when all is done.
- Sounds—to develop audio memory skills, you are asked to determine



Bob Burt

excellent

features to

improve

reading and

elocution skills

a series of sounds. For example, you might be asked to recall a series of "short o + consonant" endings which have been vocalised for you. For the *Hard* or *Expert* grades of this testing segment you would almost certainly need to write them down as they are uttered, to recall them correctly.

- The Passage activity—one of the key elements in the program. You first listen to a passage or extracts from it, then record your own reading of it. The activity also includes a range of comprehension and identification exercises.

The program works smoothly and the diction for the spoken phrases is excellent.

The manual

The 18-page manual (for the first CD-ROM only) adequately covers the installation and operation of the program, but for an application which is providing useful instruction in important aspects of the English language, I was disappointed in the relatively large number of grammatical errors that it contains.

Conclusion

A program such as this has, of necessity, to establish some rules of pronunciation, for which there may not be universal agreement. For example, one of the exercises asks you to make up short-vowelled words from a longer word. Thus, for the vowel *a*, from the word *baggage* the shorter word *gag* is permitted, but not the word *age*. There would be little disagreement for the contention that the word *age* uses the long vowel. However, from the word *encapsulate*, the shorter word *at* is permitted, but not the word *ate*, which many people would pronounce, just as correctly, in precisely the same fashion as the word *at*.

Despite these quibbles, I hasten to add that the program is well designed and has some excellent features to aid students to improve their reading and elocution skills. □

Info Box

Sound Reading

Minimum system requirements

- 386 DX33 (486 or higher preferred)
- Win 3.1x or 95
- 4 MB free RAM
- VGA 256-Colour Graphics
- Dual-speed CD-ROM drive
- 8- or 16-bit sound card
- Microphone recommended, but not essential

Availability and cost

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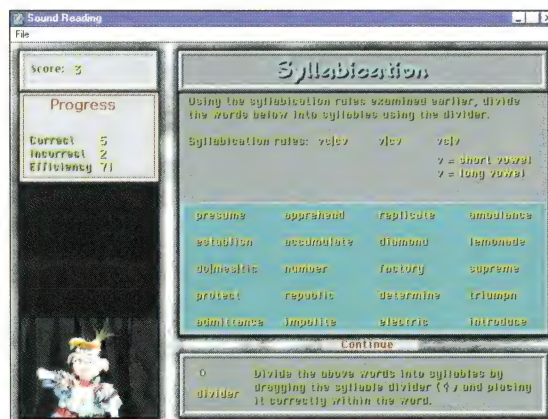


Figure 5. Syllabication!

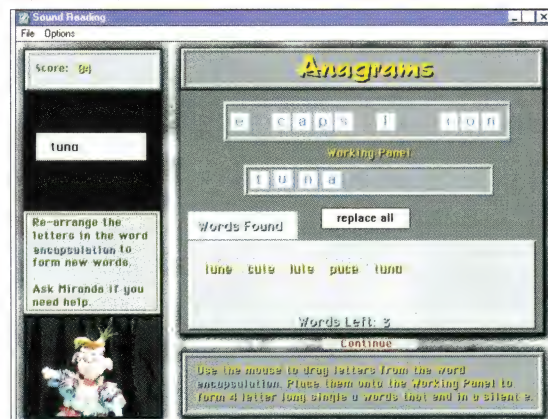


Figure 6. Does "tuna" really end in a silent "e"?

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CLUB PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Stan Johnstone

**Gene Barlow—our special visitor**

One of the highlights for Melb PC during April was the visit of **Gene Barlow** who presented PartitionMagic for PowerQuest at the monthly meeting.

Back in November 1986 at the Comdex Exhibition in Las Vegas, IBM sponsored a summit meeting of the larger User Groups including those from Washington, Boston and Houston. Out of this meeting came the beginnings of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

Melb PC's involvement with APCUG is a very important feature that enables us to develop close ties with the major vendors of computer software and hardware. Here in Australia we rely heavily on local agents and distributors, however through APCUG we maintain a direct link to the major companies that are located in the US and elsewhere.

Ever since that original meeting, IBM has been one of the major sponsors of APCUG especially at the conferences that are held at the time of Comdex each year. Without the network of APCUG and the constant interchange of ideas it is unlikely that user groups would have been able to continue as successfully as they have.

With **Ash Nallawalla** currently as Vice-President, and **Carol Daniels** on the Board of Advisors, Melb PC is well represented in APCUG. At the recent conference during April they continued the sharing of expertise and knowledge that can only be gained from experience in groups of all sizes.

Gene mentioned how he had been looking forward to visiting Melb PC for many years, and it was a great pleasure to welcome Gene Barlow to Melbourne. It is doubtful that without his influence Melb PC, and user groups like us would be able to exist today.



Gene Barlow

Office activities

If you visited the office during the latter part of March and April you probably saw everyone moving as a blur. March is our busiest month for the renewals of memberships and Internet subscriptions, and mountains of mail went out, and equally large mountains arrived back.

So many of the office volunteers were involved in this activity that I can only express the general thanks on behalf of all members to all of the

volunteers who contributed. Yet despite all that activity, they were also able to keep up with their normal work.

A sadder note came with the resignation of **Tom DeLosa**. Tom worked in the office initially as a volunteer for many months before becoming a member of staff almost two years ago. He has been a great support to **Tricia Swan** at all times, he will be greatly missed, but I am sure he will always be close by.

When you consider that we have only two (and a half) paid office staff to cater for the needs of our 11,700 members, it is one example of how we run a very lean organization. There is an enormous pressure on those working in the office—phones ringing, and all manner of constant interruptions occur continually throughout the day—yet despite this, they still are able to keep their cool.

But there again, without the willing band of office volunteers it would not be possible, and their continued support is essential and appreciated.

Orientation days

The orientation days continue to be a great success, and I must admit that I welcome the opportunity to get to know members, while explaining to them how to enjoy all the benefits that Melb PC has to offer.

Please come along yourself, and bring a friend with you who we might subtly

induce to join also. The next orientation day will be on Saturday 10 May 1997 starting at 10.00 am. Please ring the office on (03) 9699 6222 to make a reservation, as we are limited to the number we can handle at the one time.

Seminar nights

These training sessions continue to be a great success, and our next one is on Friday 16 May 1997 starting at 6.30 pm.

It had been planned to run a night on the latest Internet applications, however following the success of the previous Windows 95 night, we have held that back a month and repeated the topic of *Windows 95 for New Users*.

For just \$15 for the three-hour course, we hope those who missed out last time will be able to attend this month. Please ring the office on (03) 9699 6222 as bookings are essential.

Shareware

The Webster family continues to do a wonderful job of maintaining the Shareware library as they have for many years. They have introduced new methods and continue to offer the latest and the best material available worldwide.

For his Queen's Scout Award, **Glenn Webster** undertook as one of his tasks the further extension and development of our Shareware library. This he accomplished in his normal keen and thorough manner, and on behalf of Melb PC I would like to congratulate Glenn on achieving this award.

You can read Glenn's latest summaries of new Shareware on pages 44 to 47.

Until next month

There are many things happening at Melb PC and planning was not helped with the rumours of Telstra's introduction of timed local calls. So many matters are influenced by the actions of others, that at times we feel that we are almost running on a month-by-month basis.

Long term planning is always difficult particularly in these confusing times, but let me assure you we are continuing to work and plan for long future.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Stan Johnstone, the Club President. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Special diary dates

When:
Saturday 10 May
10.00 am.

What:
Member's orientation day—visit the office and see what goes on there.

Length:
About two hours

Cost:
Free

Where:
Melb PC
66 Albert Road
South Melbourne

Book:
(03) 9699 6222

When:
Friday 16 May
6.30 pm

What:
Seminar-format course:
Windows 95 for New Users

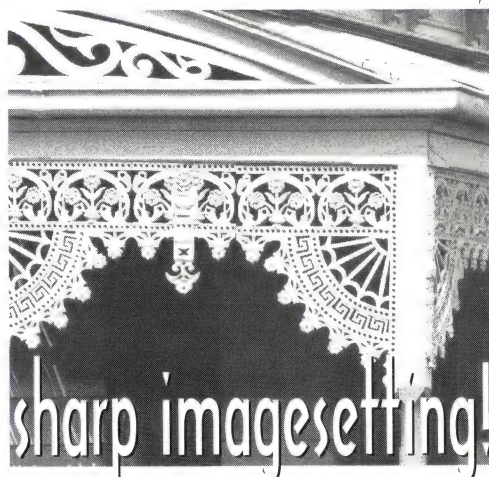
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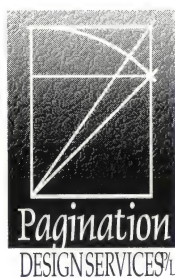
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HP 820/850/870/1600c - Black	51645A	3	\$45
HP 820/850/870 - Tricolour	51641A	2 of ea. Col.	\$45
HP 1200/650 (C,M,Y,B)	51640/50	3	\$45
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HP Paintjet - Tricolour	51606C	4 of ea. Col.	\$45
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Digital Music

TUTORIAL

John Bracey



Unless you are hearing impaired, you know what "sound" is. Sound is defined as the stimulation of auditory nerves by sound waves or vibrations carried to the ear by air. Some sounds, like the banging of a door, we define as "noise."

What is the difference between noise and music? Musical tones or sounds are nothing more than changes in air pressure. But, the same is true with noise. With noise these changes are random while with music the changes or tones are produced in a discernable pattern that lends itself to more pleasing rhythms and sounds to the human ear.

Sometimes the fine line between noise and some so-called "music" is a matter of personal taste. I am not a fan of Heavy Metal Rock. It would be difficult for me to place it on the music side of the line. To gain a basic understanding of digital music, you must also understand some of the basic physical properties of sound and music.

Air pressure waves can be mathematically graphed as wave forms. The simplest of these forms is the sine wave. Sine waves have two characteristics; frequency and amplitude. Frequency is the number of times per second that one peak and one trough (a wave cycle) repeats itself.

Our brains interpret this as pitch or the highness and lowness of sound. The human ear is capable of discerning sounds in the range of 50 Hz, a low sound or pitch on a Pipe Organ, up to

14 kHz, which might be the pitch of a shrill whistle. As we get older, we lose the higher frequencies of our hearing. A person in their sixties would be fortunate to hear frequencies in the 12 kHz range. On the other hand, most animals can hear frequencies well above 18 kHz.

The second characteristic of a sine wave is amplitude, which the ear and brain translate as loudness. A combination of sine waves makes up a more complex sound wave which determines a sound's timbre—that is whether the sound sounds like a trumpet or a violin to us.

In order for computer buffs to produce digital music with their computers, they must install a computer sound board. Sound boards vary greatly both in quality and price. While there are several companies that manufacture sound cards, the company that seems to be the most popular with the computer hobbyist is Creative Labs, which makes the Sound Blaster audio and multimedia computer boards. On the low end in sound and cost is the Sound Blaster 16 Value PnP. The SB 16 boasts CD-quality digital audio delivering true 16-bit stereo sound that exceeds MPC1 and MPC2 standards. The advanced synthesiser provides very good sounding music as well as special effects. For the hobbyist on a budget, the SB 16 Value board is a good bargain and can be Wave Table upgradable. Windows 95 users enjoy the Plug'n'Play (PnP) feature and accompanying software that make installation and configuration of IRQs and addresses a much easier operation. The

top Sound Blaster audio board is the Sound Blaster AWE32 PnP. The Advanced WaveEffects 32 (AWE 32) is an audio card that allows you to obtain realistic acoustic reproduction through digitised sound samples. The AWE 32 supports major MIDI standards such as General MIDI, Roland GS, and MT-32. Your Sony, Mitsumi, or Panasonic CD-ROM drive cable can be plugged into the AWE 32 board eliminating the need for the board that came with the CD-ROM drive and freeing up a slot in your computer. Recent Sound Blaster boards emulate the Roland MPU-401 board so that with the addition of an inexpensive MIDI kit and cables, a MIDI electronic musical instrument or keyboard can be connected and played through your computer.

The last ingredient necessary for digital music is the device that reproduces and transmits the sound waves for our ears to hear. This device can be a simple set of inexpensive earphones that plug into and are powered by your sound board. A more expensive amplified speaker system such as your stereo hi-fi can be connected to your computer. We'll look at some of these options in the future. □

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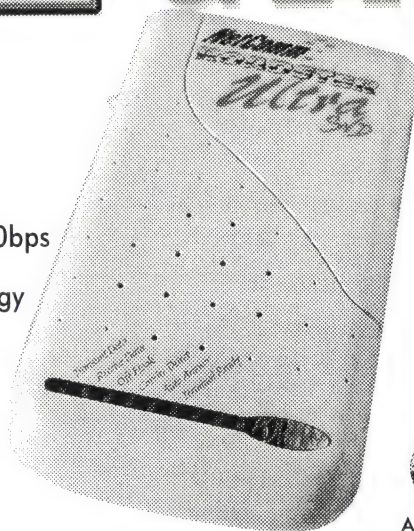


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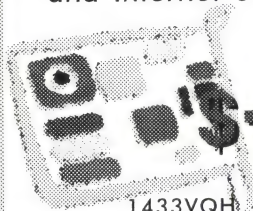
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Tips and tricks

MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER

George Skarbek



Caps problem

Do you ever hit CapsLock instead of the Shift key and continue typing? If you are using Windows 95 there is help.

You can modify Windows to make a sound when the Caps Lock button is hit. Do this by clicking on Start, Settings, Control Panel, Accessibility Options and click on the ToggleKeys check box. Now when you press CapsLock, it will make a sound and when you press it again, to turn it off, it will make a different sound

Sorting files in Windows Explorer

Often it is useful to see your files sorted by date, to find your most recently saved files, or by size to see what is taking up the disk space. With Windows 95 Explorer just click on any of the headings in the right-hand pane and your files will be sorted by that field. Click again to reverse the sort order.

If you cannot see the file details in the right-hand pane, then click on View, Toolbar and then on the Details icon on the tool bar. This is the furthest one on the right and you may have to drag the right-hand border farther over to make this icon appear

Suspending auto numbering in Word

When using auto numbering of paragraphs, users often find it tricky to have two or more paragraphs under the one point without the next number appearing and it is a messy business to fix this once it has happened. The answer is actually very simple. Instead of pressing Enter to start a new paragraph, press Shift+Enter. You will get a new paragraph without a new number. Press Enter and the new number will appear.

Promoting levels in Word 5 vs Word 7

In regards to how to promote further levels using multi-level numbering there is a difference between Word 5 and Word 7. To go from 1. to 1.1 in Word 5 you have to press Shift+Alt and the right arrow. In Word 7 this still works but the tab key will achieve the same thing. Tab again to get 1.1.1 and Shift+Tab to go back one level.

Assigning "Print Current Page"

I often wish to print just the current page in a multi-page Word document. Because I tend to do this frequently, I have assigned both a keyboard shortcut and an icon on the Toolbar to save going through the File, Print menu option. This is not that difficult to achieve but takes several steps. To assign your commonly used commands do the following:

- Click on *Tools, Macro*, then give it a name and description
- Click on *Record* and assign it to the Keyboard
- Press the key combination that you wish to use. In my case I've selected Ctrl+Shift+P (Ctrl+P brings up the normal print box.) Word will show if the combination you have selected is already assigned. If it is, and you don't use that combination (in my case, it is pre-assigned to *FontSize Select* which I do not invoke from the keyboard) you can reassign it. If you do use the function to which the key combination is already assigned, simply select another combination that isn't used.
- Click on *Assign* and you will see two buttons appear in a tiny window called *Macro Record* as shown and the cursor will change.
- Click on the commands that are required to achieve your task. In this example it is *File, Print, Current page* and *OK*.
- Press the *Stop* button in the *Macro Record* window.



To make things even more convenient, you can also assign an icon on the Toolbar for this function, as follows:

- Click on *Tools, Customise and Toolbars*
- Scroll down until you see *Macro* and click on *Macro*
- Select the one that you have just created and drag it onto the Toolbar, in the position that you want to have it and change the text as required
- Select a picture that you like
- Click on *Assign* and then *Close*

Now you can quickly use the keyboard or icon to perform your frequent tasks.

Windows 95 resource kit

Have you ever looked for help in the Windows 95 Help and not found what you were after? Well, Microsoft sells a book called *Microsoft Windows 95 Resource Kit* for \$100. This book is thicker than the phone directory and has a lot of additional information about Windows 95. However, instead of purchasing it, anyone who has installed Windows 95 from a CD-ROM has that full book, with diagrams and screen dumps, on their CD-ROM. It is not copied onto the hard disk during installation, but can be copied onto your hard disk or accessed from the CD-ROM. The file is WIN95RK and is in a folder called \ADMIN\RESKIT\HELPPFILE on the CD-ROM. Microsoft does not appear to advertise this.

What type of memory do I need?

"Occasionally I get a message stating that my computer has insufficient memory. Do I need to increase my hard disk or the RAM?"

This is a question that I am regularly asked. There are many people who have been using computers for many years but still are not sure of the difference between memory and disk storage. The reason for this, I believe, is due to the fact that both are measured in bytes or megabytes (MB). In a similar way, oil and petrol are both needed to make a car run, and both are measured in the same units, litres, but have quite different functions.

The key difference between memory and disk storage is that programs can only be run in Random Access Memory (RAM) but are stored on disk. When power is switched off, anything that is in RAM is immediately lost. The contents on the hard disk remain. To run a program, such as Word, the operating system, Windows, loads the program from the disk, into the memory (RAM). Only then can Word begin to run. However to save time and memory, not all of the program is loaded into memory. Extras such as the thesaurus, drawing functions, etc, are loaded only when required.

Windows itself consumes considerable memory before any application program is loaded. However, Windows can run

programs that require more memory than is physically available, by swapping information from memory to a swap file on the hard disk. When information from the swap file is needed, Windows moves it back into real physical memory. This allows several large programs to be loaded simultaneously. The swap file is referred to as virtual memory.

This swapping process is very time consuming, but with more RAM the need for swapping in and out to disk can be drastically reduced or even eliminated. To get the best performance from Windows you must minimise this disk access, as getting data from memory is over one thousand times faster than from disk. With more real RAM available some programs will run many times faster. Word and WordPerfect are among such programs. With more RAM, overlays, such as the spell checker, once loaded do not have to be swapped out, and the next time you run spell check the results will be very much faster. Smaller programs will generally not show much improvement with additional RAM. With today's programs, 16 MB is generally quite adequate. It will give a very significant improvement over an 8 MB system. Going to 32 MB will usually only give a small improvement

over 16 MB, however some programs will benefit significantly, such as Adobe Photoshop. Memory prices have fallen drastically and 8 MB of memory can be purchased for about \$60.

The clue as to what resource has run out is given by the phrase "Insufficient memory" and this almost certainly points to RAM. If the hard disk has filled, the usual message would state "Disk Full" or "Unable to Write to Disk" or something similar. The "Insufficient memory" message is further complicated by the fact that there are several types of memory used by IBM PCs. Users with 64 MB of RAM (the real memory) can get the "Insufficient memory" error message under Windows 3.1. By far the most important memory is the first 640 KB, known as base memory, because most applications, as well as the operating system, want it. The amount of free base free memory to a large extent, determines the behaviour of Windows 3.1. Windows 95 has much better memory management so the first 640 KB is not as critical.

Before Windows 3.1 users buy more memory, it may pay to try to increase the free space in the base memory, which is the first 640 KB and the most valuable part of memory. Often this is taken up

by too many programs and there is insufficient conventional memory left. By freeing up this part of memory you may save having to purchase more RAM, which still may not solve this error message. This is because increasing the total RAM, does not increase the first 640 KB.

The quickest and simplest way of freeing up some of this 640 KB, if you are running DOS 6 or higher, is to use MEMMAKER. This is an automated memory optimisation program which usually helps to make more memory available. This must be run from DOS with Windows not active.

If you have some computer knowledge, examine the contents of your AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files to see if there are programs being loaded that are now no longer used. Before starting make a copy of the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files. A common program that can be removed, which is best done by typing REM in front of the appropriate line, is the mouse driver. This is only required if you are running DOS programs that use the mouse. Windows has its own mouse driver built in and does not need the DOS version. This will usually free a reasonable amount of conventional memory. After deleting such programs run MEMMAKER again to now optimise the RAM. □

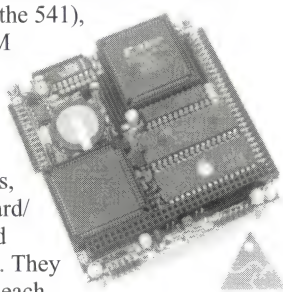
Australian-made Embedded Computers: PC/104 or ISA bus

PC540/1 PC/104 Computers

These computers use the PC/104 bus, an international standard for embedded systems. The X86 instruction sets suit standard PC compilers, or the \$179 Pacific C Compiler. These boards use the 80C188EB and V51 CPUs.

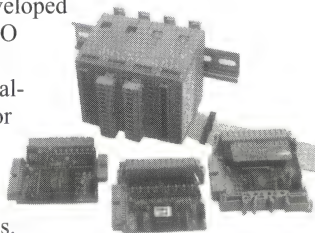
The boards run programs from PROM or a FLASH-based DOS provides the familiar DOS environment. DRAM to 1 Mbyte or CMOS RAM to 512 Kbyte is available.

Both boards have two serial ports (550 compatible on the 541), RTC, EEPROM and Xilinx gate arrays for additional I/O. The 540 has 40 I/O lines, The 541 has hard/floppy disk and LPT interfaces. They are \$350/\$450 each.



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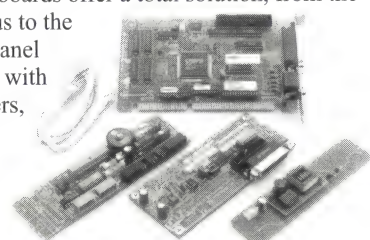
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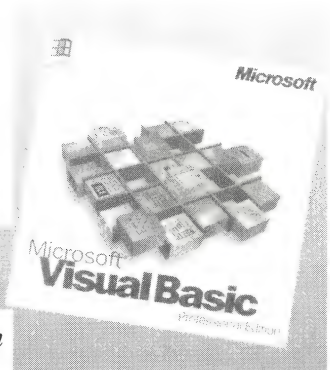
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Seeing the Basics: Printer and Screen Fonts and WYSIWYG

VB 4 TIPS

Tony Stevenson



Selecting the right font

It is fun to develop a small VB project that displays the screen and printer fonts that are available for a particular systems configuration.

To do so, start a new project, and add two list boxes naming them *lstPrinterFonts* and *lstScreenFonts* respectively. Make sure the list boxes are wide enough to handle some of the more lengthy font names that will be displayed, and also that the Sorted property for each list box is set to True.

Now add two command buttons. The first is named *cmdListPrinterFonts*, with a caption of *List Printer Fonts*, and the second is called *cmdListScreenFonts* with a caption of *List Screen Fonts*. The following code is then written into the respective click events of these buttons so that the sample project looks like Listing 1.

The *FontCount* property is a useful one because it can be used to determine the number of fonts ready for use with the active display and printer of a particular system configuration.

And when used in conjunction with the *Fonts* property, it provides an elegant and quick way of finding out which printer and screen fonts are available for use within a VB application.

As a VB programming standard, it is always a good idea to discipline yourself to use the *Clear* method to empty out the contents of a list box before starting to add list entries with the *AddItem* method. The failure to include the *Clear* can sometimes introduce subtle bugs into

an application, making it difficult to trace and resolve the source of the problem.

While writing code to list both printer and screen fonts may be fun, the resulting application does seem to be of little practical use. However, with just some small additions to the project, along with a little reorganisation, this demonstration program can be turned into a useful piece of software that you can add to your VB programming toolbox.

Add a new command button to the project, and call it *cmdListCommonFonts* with a caption of *List Common Fonts*. Now place a new list box onto the form with a name of *lstCommonFonts*, again making sure to switch its *Sorted* property to *True*. Position the relevant command buttons under their associated list boxes. Then code the click event for the *List Common Fonts* button so that it resembles Listing 2.

Because the list of common fonts can take a little time to compile when the

This column provides techniques, tips, and tricks to help you gain familiarity and experience with MS Visual Basic: a popular language that enables you to quickly write Windows applications.

program is running, it is a good idea to change the mouse cursor into an hour glass to inform the user that the application is indeed still working. Why not go back now and add similar code to the click events of the other two command buttons.

Start the application, and then click the three command buttons in succession.

On first looks, it appears that there are no differences between the contents of the three list boxes. But a closer examination does reveal those fonts that can be successfully used with both printed output and information displayed on a screen. By only using fonts common to both the display and print devices for a particular user's configuration, it is

Basic SIG

The Basic SIG meets at the Melb PC sig room on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm. For more details contact Andrew Callaway on (03) 9619 4067 BH.

```
Private Sub cmdListPrinterFonts_Click ()
Dim i as Integer
lstPrinterFonts.Clear
For i = 0 To Printer.FontCount - 1
    lstPrinterFonts.AddItem Printer.Fonts(i)
Next i
End Sub
Private Sub cmdListScreenFonts_Click ()
Dim i as Integer
lstScreenFonts.Clear
For i = 0 To Screen.FontCount - 1
    lstScreenFonts.AddItem Screen.Fonts(i)
Next i
End Sub
```

Listing 1.

```
Private Sub cmdListCommonFonts_Click ()
Dim i as Integer
Dim j as Integer
Screen.MousePointer = ccHourglass
lstCommonFonts.Clear
For i = 0 to Printer.FontCount - 1
    For j = 0 to Screen.FontCount -
        If Printer.Fonts(i) = Screen.Fonts(j) then
            lstCommonFonts.AddItem Printer.Fonts (i)
        End If
    Next j
Next i
Screen.MousePointer = ccDefault
End Sub
```

Listing 2.

```
Private Sub cmdLoadFontMenu_Click
Dim i as Integer
For i = 1 to lstCommonFonts.ListCount - 1
    Load mnuCommonFonts(i)
Next i
For i = 0 to lstCommonFonts.ListCount - 1
    mnuCommonFonts(i).Caption =
    lstCommonFonts.List(i)
Next i
End Sub
```

Listing 3.

possible to construct VB applications that are WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) in nature.

It would be a good idea to include in the project a count of the entries in each list box to emphasise to users that there are differences in the number of the printer, screen, and common fonts. Do that now by adding three labels under each of the list boxes, naming them *lblPrinterFontCount*, *lblScreenFontCount*, and *lblCommonFontCount* respectively. Also set the caption property of each of the labels to spaces.

Add the following (single) lines of code towards the end of the respective click events of the command buttons (insert them just before those locations in the application where the mouse pointer is changed back to its default shape):

For the cmdListPrinterFonts button add:

```
lblPrinterFontCount =  
    lstPrinterFonts.ListCount
```

For the cmdListScreenFonts button:

```
lblScreenFontCount =  
    lstScreenFonts.ListCount
```

And for the cmdListCommonFonts button:

```
lblCommonFontCount =  
    lstCommonFonts.ListCount
```

Adding the common fonts to a menu

Instead of displaying the common fonts in a list box as we have just done, a more user friendly approach would be to include them as menu options.

Using VBs Menu Editor, add a menu called *mnuFonts* with an associated caption of *Fonts*. Then create a menu control array by setting up a second menu option indented under the first one, giving this a name of *mnuCommonFonts*, setting its caption to the word empty, and most importantly, its index to 0.

Place another command button on the form, name it cmdLoadFontMenu and set its caption to Load Font Menu Options. Put the following code into its click event:

Run the application, click the List Common Fonts command button, and then click the Load Font Menu Options button. And presto, there are the available common printer and screen fonts set up as menu options ready to be used within the application.

Get ready to explore VB 5.0

By the time you are reading this, Visual Basic 5.0 will have been released. So next months column will provide an overview of the latest release, with a look at its newest features and performance improvements.

E-mail address

Contact Tony Stevenson by e-mail at acsmls@acslink.net.au

PC Update, May 1997

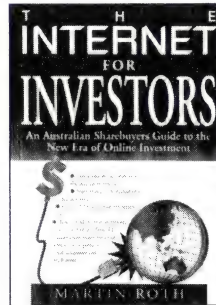
For the bookshelf



BOOK REVIEW

Bob Burt

The Internet for Investors



Clearly, the Internet offers a vast range of topics to suit virtually all tastes and interests. A topic of great appeal is the stock market, simply because it reflects the financial interests of so many investors and is subject to continuous change. So it is no surprise to find that there is an everexpanding number of sites on the Net that provide detailed and up-to-date guidance on which stocks to buy and sell. As much as 12 months ago I was pleasantly surprised to find a site run by a top Australian brokerage company. I downloaded a copy of their quarterly *Inner Circle* journal in Adobe Acrobat format from its web site. This provided information of a kind previously available only to recognised financial advisors.

The author of *The Internet for Investors* is Melbourne-based Martin Roth. He is a prominent writer of investment books and, incidentally, a member of Melb PC User Group. In his preface, Martin outlines developments taking place in the stock market investment sphere on the Internet. These range from research reports and stock-price quotes to drilling reports, currency rates and commodities prices.

The book is designed to be a guide to investment-related Australian sites and assumes that the reader has a basic familiarity with the Net, although there is a brief introduction to it in the appendix. Each site is described in some detail, to enable you to determine whether it is likely to be of interest to you.

Introductory chapters discuss whether stockbroking will survive the Net and go on to outline the challenges confronting the stockbroking industry. A later chapter is devoted to a warning from the Australian Securities Commission to unwary and unskilled potential investors

and their very practical guidelines are summarised elsewhere.

For convenience, the major sites are grouped in chapters devoted to

- Stockbrokers
- Other Share Investment Sites
- Private Home Pages
- Banks, Unit Trusts and Insurance Companies
- Other Finance and Investment Sites
- The Media
- Listed Companies
- Government
- Resources Sites
- Newsgroups
- Overseas Media

One chapter is devoted entirely to the *Australian Financial Review* and its Internet site. There is much meat in all of these chapters, together they contain more than 250 sites.

To assist you in the digestion process, Martin has provided a chapter on his Top Ten Sites. Unfortunately, the site to which he gave pride of place no longer exists, but no doubt others will arise to fill the gaps. The author is well aware of the continual flux of the Internet and alerts you to expect changes from some of the detail you read in the book.

The author's commentary throughout the chapters is both informative and fascinating, bearing in mind that it is his view that "the rapid growth of the Internet poses the biggest challenge to the Australian stockbroking industry since the stock market crash of 1987....".

This is an important guide for investors, whether they are newcomers to the Internet or not.

Martin Roth:
The Internet for Investors
ISBN 1 875857 28 1
164 pages
Published by Wrightbooks Pty Ltd
RRP: \$24.95

BASIC basics

Part 3

Basic
All-purpose
Symbolic
Instruction
Code

PROGRAMMING TUTORIAL

John M Graham

The object of this installment is to demonstrate some more reserved words and to get and use a list of files that contain the desired input data. In writing this example, several unnecessary things are done in order to demonstrate the use of some reserved words.

The output of this program is ready for use as input to the search program in the previous article. At the end of this part there are suggestions for changes to the search program.

This is the end, for now, of string examples. Next month we show simple line drawing, area colouring and pixel use and testing your screen to see if squares are square and circles round, then some simple arithmetic.

For this program it is assumed that there is a floppy disk in A:, and that it has a subdirectory TEXT, which contains many text files with names having an extension TXT. If this is not so then the shell statement must be changed to point to a directory somewhere and the file name extension changed to something that actually exists.

Look at and run the program Basic3.Bas that is in listing 1. You will see lines in it that refer to extended explanatory remarks, which, if included, make the program difficult to read and impossible to test. These are in a separate panel.

As mentioned earlier, the output file must stay open so it and the WIDTH command are not where they were, but have been moved outside of all of the loops. They now precede the first WHILE.

Now use the search program (previous installment) to search the output file of the program just finished. All of the data is in one data file, all in upper case. The data can be searched with one run of the search program.

When you come to look at the output of the search program you will find that the line fold is dependent on the characteristics of your terminal and will not occur at the space between words.

To modify the search program find the length of the string it has found. If the string length is greater than 78 use *mid\$* in a loop such as

```
FOR J= 78 to 50 step -1
```

and jump out of the loop when

```
mid$(s$,j,1) = " "
```

You now know the length of a substring that ends in a blank. Use *Left\$()* in a print statement to select and print the words up to the blank. Use *Right\$()* to move the remaining words to another variable.

Now repeat the process on the new short string until the length of the remaining string is less than 78. When finished the original output string, broken into pieces short enough to

display on the screen, and not splitting any words, will be in the output file.

Sometime in the future I hope there will be an installment in which we write a program breaking the string into individual words. Input data is the file UpCase.Txt, the output is a file Word.Lst.

Next a program will read one word at a time and compare it with the words in an array (which is initially empty). If the word is not in the array it is added, if it is there then a counter is incremented. when finished there is a list of all words used and how many times they appear.

Finally a simple sorting program to place the words in alphabetical order. This is a good way to check a big file for wrong words when the file has many words not in the word processor dictionary.

This is enough string manipulation for now.

About the author

John M Graham retired several years ago from RMIT where he was a member of the Communications and Electronic Engineering department, teaching subjects related to electronics and engineering applications of computers. He can be contacted at (03) 9877 0480 or on the BBS, (include the middle initial, messages without it go to someone else). □



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'BASIC3

```
'program makes and works on a list  
'of input files, not just one file.
```

```
ON KEY (31) GOSUB GETOUTOFTTHIS  
KEY (31) ON  
GOTO KEEPGOING  
GETOUTOFTTHIS:  
PRINT "STOPPED BY FUNCTION 12 KEY"  
END  
KEEPGOING:  
cls  
print "FUNCTION KEY F12 will stop the program"  
print "then any key to return to the program listing"  
  
' ***** Rem 1 applies here  
print: print"trying to do shell"  
shell "dir a:\text\*.txt >tmp."  
print: print"end of shell attempt"  
close 'be sure file TMP. is closed  
  
' ***** Rem 2 applies here  
OPEN "O", 3, "UpCase.Txt"  
Width #3, 256  
  
OPEN "I", 1, "tmp." 'the shell statement  
                        'created the tmp file  
' ***** Rem 3 applies here  
while not eof(1)  
    line input #1, S$  
    if left$(S$,1) = " " then goto SKIP2  
    if len (S$) < 5 then goto SKIP2  
' ***** Rem 4 applies here  
    filenm$ = "a:\text\" + rtrim$(left$(S$,8)) + "."  
    filenm$ = filenm$ + ltrim$(rtrim$(mid$(S$,8,12)))  
' ***** Rem 5 applies here  
    print S$: print filenm$: delay .1  
' ***** Rem 6 applies here  
    close 2 'close present file 2 so the n  
            'next file can use this number  
    open "I", 2, filenm$  
' ***** Rem 7 applies here  
    while not eof(2) 'repeat the following  
        'until end of file  
        line Input #2, U$  
        if len(U$) < 2 then goto SKIP1  
        U$ = ucase$(U$)  
' ***** Rem 8 applies here  
        if left$(U$,1) = chr$(31) then  
            print #3, T$  
' ***** Rem 9 applies here  
            if len(T$) > LongLine then LongLine = len(T$)  
            incr k  
            if k mod 100 = 0 then print k;" ";left$(T$,10)  
            T$ = right$(U$,len(U$)-1)  
        else  
            T$ = rtrim$(T$) + " " + ltrim$(U$)  
        end if  
SKIP1:  
    wend 'this is the end of the  
        'WHILE loop for one file  
SKIP2:  
wend 'this is the end of the WHILE  
    'loop for the list of files  
print "The length of the longest line is " LongLine  
print "end"  
end
```

Listing 1.

Rem 1

SHELL is used to execute a DOS command. This shell statement calls for a listing of all of the files in directory a:\text that have the extension TXT. The arrow > causes the results to be placed in file TMP.

Rem 2

TMP. is output file to contain all of the text in directory TXT, not just the content of one file. To look at file TMP. press F3 and type TMP. Include the full stop, but upper or lower case not relevant. A convenient way to return to original file is to press Alt+F3 then use the arrow keys to select the file then press Enter.

The next two lines must be here to be outside of all loops and not repeated within the program. A repeated OPEN of the same file without a CLOSE would be an error. If the file were closed and reopened the writing would start at the beginning every time. (learn about APPEND in far far future)

Rem 3

It is necessary to bypass the header lines (look at TMP. to see what I mean). The GOTO SKIP2 specifies that if a line meets the IF test the program goes directly to SKIP2. The GOTO structure is used because this demonstration language does not include "iterate".

Now watch the program as those lines are skipped. Press Ctrl+F7, put S\$ in the box that appears then press Enter. Press Ctrl+F7 again and put FILENMS in the box then Enter. Now run the program by repeatedly pressing F7 (plain F7, not Ctrl+F7) and watch the content of S\$ and FILENMS change in the box at the bottom of the screen. See the coloured line on the program listing indicating the line to be executed next.

Rem 4

The following statement demonstrates use of trimming (getting rid of spaces at beginning and end) and substring selection. It could be simpler if it were not used for a demonstration. The action is divided into statements on two lines to try to make it easier to read in magazine format.

Rem 5

The following print and delay accomplish nothing except demonstration. The colon demonstrates more than one statement on a line which is sometimes convenient in order to group statements for easier understanding. Displaying the output on the screen shows how the program is progressing.

Rem 6

Now open the program for each file name as it is obtained. Note that FILENMS is already a string, it does not have quote marks as in the Open 1 and 3 statements above.

Rem 7

Here use the ideas in the example in the previous installment but be careful - I have purposely set you up for a common error. You will have to change some file numbers and some variables used in the previous program because 1 and 2 and S\$ are already used. Also notice there are two different SKIP commands.

Rem 8

The chr\$(31) in the next line is used because in the original data file the character at the start of each verse is not on the keyboard. I found out what the character was by running the example in the previous installment to print a character and its ASCII number. The number of the first character is 31. The function chr\$(31) represents that character. As an example consider the character "A", it is number 65. The statement Print "A" and the statement print chr\$(65) give the same result. The chr\$ function is used often when creating command strings for things such as printers.

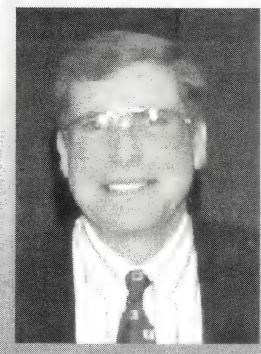
Rem 9

The length of the longest line and the display of the progress of the program are not required, they are just demonstration of the use of reserved words. The LEN() function returns the length of a string.

Are you looking SCSI lately?

PART 2: SCSI TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

Fred Townsend



What is scsi? Scsi is an acronym for Small Computer System Interface....but Interface to what? Perhaps a better name would have been Computer Peripheral Interface for not all scsi applications involve "small" computers nor does the name "system" necessarily apply. Today scsi applications range from terabyte jukebox archival data storage systems to 2.5-inch laptop disk drives. Scsi interfaces can be found in tape drives, CD-ROMs, scanners, printers, disk drives and hundreds of custom applications. These sub-system peripherals typically form building blocks, rather than complete systems. This provides a flexibility beyond what is possible at the system level. Let's look at the various scsi building blocks, starting with protocols.

Protocols govern information transfer

The original focus of the scsi specification was on defining a feature-rich set of rules primarily aimed at hard disks, but applicable to smart peripherals of all kinds. The protocols, sometimes referred to as the software side of scsi, are a set of rules that govern the operation of the scsi community of electronic devices. The manufacturers translate the rules into the firmware that controls their hardware.

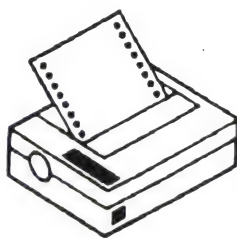
A scsi circuit consists of a *master* and one or more *targets*. When two or more scsi targets are accommodated, the interface is usually referred to as a scsi bus. The term interface is sometimes used in place of bus when a nonexpandable single target is connected and often refers to a proprietary or noncomplaint interface.

**building blocks,
rather than
complete systems**

Maximum flexibility is achieved because scsi devices can describe their capabilities and parameters to the master and its host. Using these descriptions the host can, statically and sometimes dynamically, configure the scsi components for maximum performance or maximum capability.

Static configuration begins at system boot-up with the bus master. Multiple masters can reside on the bus so the master with the highest address becomes

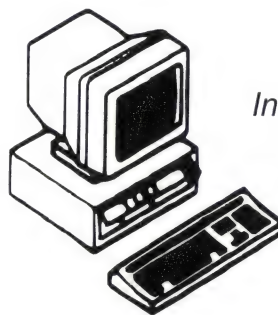
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the permanent bus master. Other masters, if present, are known as temporary bus masters, which are also targets. At power-up or boot time the ranking SCSI master initiates the session by calling roll.

When an address is called by the master the target device answers with a short message equivalent to "present." At this point the master knows only that a device resides at the answering address. Then the master re-interrogates the answering address with a command equivalent to "Tell me about yourself." In this way the master learns the characteristics of each target, including whether that target has temporary bus mastering capability. There is no requirement for the targets to be similar, so a hard disk and a printer can coexist on the same bus.

The master knows, from its previous interrogation, the characteristics of each device so it can request each target use, or not use, any of its features during the session. Multithreaded operation is fully supported. If one target lacks a capability, it does not prevent the master from using that capability with some other device.

What are SCSI characteristics?

Characteristics range from a device's physical parameters such as type of device, manufacturer, capacity, and serial number to the repertoire of commands or modes the target understands.

Fast track

With attention from mainframe computer companies as well as Apple, SCSI was off to a fast start. There were some problems getting the hosts to always communicate correctly with the SCSI devices, but with a defined set of protocols the problems were soon ironed out.

The original specification defined protocols, but did not address other aspects of SCSI in detail. The committee envisioned the mechanical, electrical and timing aspects of SCSI would pretty much define themselves. Only at the connector interface, was there any attempt at hardware standardisation, and this was somewhat ignored by the mainframe manufacturers. The manufacturers were accustomed to defining their own connectors and cabling so were not concerned with optional SCSI mechanical specifications.

Cables, a frequent problem source

It is common practice in designing cables to use the odd numbered conductors as signal returns (grounds) while the even numbered conductors carry the signals. The odd-even alternation is a technique that transforms a ribbon cable into clustered transmission lines. High quality transmission lines are necessary to carry the high bandwidth SCSI signals. Failure to recognise this requirement was one source of cable problems.

The original SCSI specification called for nine data and nine control signals. With grounds, the minimum number of wires came to about 40. It is not clear if the original specification, extracted from the Shugart specification (SASI), envisioned future expansion. Perhaps it was just handy because 50-wire cables were already used on eight-inch floppy disk drives, or perhaps they just wanted a connector that could not be mistaken for the MFM hard-disk connector. Whatever the reason, the selection—a 50-wire connector and cable—provided 10 extra conductors that tempted some manufacturers to design custom applications, but not enough conductors to support "wide" or "differential" applications.

SCSI's optional pin-outs were a problem for the do-it-yourselfers. Non-mandatory connectors and pin-outs, meant host adapter designers could copy the approach of the mainframers by using connectors and pin-outs that were convenient to their own boards, rather than following the optional recommended pin-outs. Unfortunately, this forced the use of adapter cables that, because of their custom pin-outs, were expensive and hard to get. One manufacturer used a DB-25 connector for its external interface, the same connector already used for the XT's serial and parallel ports. This provided endless possibilities for errors.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Microsoft Internet Explorer - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Go", "Favorites", and "Help". The toolbar contains "Back", "Forward", "Stop", "Refresh", "Home", "Links", and an "Address" field with the URL "http://www.solbydes.com.au/". The main content area features a large graphic of a race car and the text "web publishing". Below this, it says "The race is on to have your own internet presence." and lists services: "From as little as \$595.00, you could have your own : - Domain name e.g. http://www.webname.com.au - Email address e.g. myname@webname.com.au - Home page with contact information". A box on the right offers a "10% discount on any Hard Drive for PCUG members". At the bottom, there are logos for "Precise Data Recovery Services" and "SOLUTIONS by Design", along with contact information for "399 Belmore Rd, East Balwyn, VIC, 3129", including telephone and facsimile numbers, and a website URL. The status bar at the bottom shows "Done".

Microsoft Internet Explorer - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Go Favorites Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Links Address <http://www.solbydes.com.au/>

web publishing

The race is on to have your own internet presence.

From as little as **\$595.00**, you could have your own :

- Domain name e.g. <http://www.webname.com.au>
- Email address e.g. myname@webname.com.au
- Home page with contact information

So what are you waiting for?!!

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Web Site <http://www.solbydes.com.au>

Done

IBM BIOS not friendly to SCSI

The biggest SCSI problems were seen in placing SCSI within the IBM box. The IBM BIOS was not friendly to any hard drives, particularly SCSI hard drives. The IBM XT hard disk interface was awkward at best.

To overcome the XT's deficiencies, IBM tried a different approach on the AT. It seemed that some IBM utilities, like *FORMAT*, needed to know the size of the disk. Rather than trust the user to enter the disk capacity directly, the BIOS required drive parameters so it could compute drive capacity. But, drive parameters were hard to obtain and sometimes confusing.

IBM choose to treat the symptom rather than the problem by placing drive tables—containing drive parameters—within the AT BIOS. This decision would bite IBM and its camp followers at almost every turn.

For example, take just one drive parameter, sector size. All modern drives are soft sectored—meaning that sector size can be a variable. What is the benefit of having a SCSI drive that can format eight different sector sizes if the BIOS only understands one size?

Work around to the work around

The apparent solutions to the IBM BIOS hard disk problem were to either use a device driver or replace the BIOS. To a host adapter manufacturer this is like being asked, Do you want to be hung or shot? Device drivers must be installed from the hard disk and if the hard disk is not booted, the driver can not be installed. Changing the BIOS directly, is equally impossible since the BIOS resides in nonwritable ROM.

Lies, lies, damned lies

The realisable solution was to patch the BIOS—using a technique known as a run time patch or an Overlaid BIOS. At boot-up, after the BIOS has been moved from ROM to RAM and before the hard disk is accessed, the BIOS searches its address space for peripheral devices. At this time the host adapter interrupts the boot process to install a patch contained within its own ROM. The patch redirects the BIOS hard disk processes to those contained within the overlay BIOS. The overlay interprets and filters information going and coming from the standard BIOS. If necessary, it alters the information and in effect lies to the standard BIOS.

For instance if there are three physical hard drives the BIOS would become confused because the it only understands a maximum of two physical hard drives. In this case the overlay tells the BIOS there are three logical drives and since the BIOS understands up to twenty-six logical drives everything proceeds normally.

A new beginning

The SCSI architects knew they could not anticipate all requirements in their original specification so they installed the hooks for future adaptation and invited the expansion of the command set to serve the needs of other devices. The tape industry was one the first to take advantage of this process by submitting over 100 additional commands.

There were others that argued that just adding commands was not enough. SCSI needed some fixing too. As the mix-or-match IBM clone market emerged, it became clear that better connectors and cables were needed. Also, there needed to be specifications for terminating those cables and perhaps a way of making SCSI faster. In turn, a faster SCSI would mean more cable problems.

In 1991, almost six years after the release of the original specification, SCSI-2 was released. (The original SCSI specification was renamed SCSI-1 to distinguish it from SCSI-2.) Differential and serial variants were among the many new features. The specification, actually a collection of specifications, totals over 400 pages, more than twice the size of SCSI-1.

SCSI-1 and -2 versions vary significantly in approach and content. SCSI-1 addressed software issues while virtually ignoring the physical side. SCSI-2 attempted to correct this deficiency by adding cable and connector specifications. It also added the SCSI-WIDE capability with 16- and 32-bit buses.

The SCSI-1 specification suggests a maximum cable length of six metres (almost 20 feet.) This is plenty of cable for desktop machines but a little short for mainframes where the disk bays are sometimes 15 metres (50 feet) away from the CPUs. To provide longer cable lengths, SCSI-2 added differential cable specifications. Differential signals are much more robust and therefore may be used at much longer distances.

Membership on a SCSI committee is a difficult and expensive ordeal. It is not something most individuals can do without sponsorship. It should not surprise anyone to find that big companies are more heavily represented on the committee than small ones. It also should not surprise anyone that politics plays a role in the decision making.

One of the criticisms of SCSI-1 was the overly permissive nature of its optional specifications. SCSI-2 did little to change permissiveness. Six options were removed and four requirements were added. In deference to the large companies already using their own connectors and pin-outs, those pin-outs became the recommended pin-outs. In deference to the smaller companies doing their own thing, the pin-outs were made optional. SCSI-2 did little to fix the known problems of SCSI-1. There is reason to ask why SCSI-2 was

even released. The apparent answer was after six years, it was time to release something.

Work on SCSI-3 began almost immediately. As of this writing, SCSI-3 is an unapproved specification. Until it is approved, by the SCSI ASC (American National Standard of Accredited Standards X3T9 Technical Committee) the currently approved version remains at the SCSI-2 level. That does not stop companies from using the current working version of SCSI-3 as a design standard. However, companies doing so proceed at the risk the specification may change before final release.

SCSI-3's 600 plus pages break new ground. Unlike its predecessors, it is a much more restrictive specification. Mandatory connectors and minimum and maximum cable lengths are specified. Also, the electrical characteristics of the cables and the signals driving the cables are specified.

SCSI-3 appears to have solved many of SCSI's lingering problems while creating a few new problems. For instance it specifies a minimum of 0.3 metre (1 foot) between cable connectors. This may cause some stuffing problems for small boxes. Also, the internal connectors are not retained by screws or clips. A slight vibration or torquing of the cable will cause them to pop out. Unless respecified, manufacturers will need to use supplemental restraints to keep the cables from bouncing out.

Next month

Part 3 of this 5-part series: *Installing SCSI*. Copyright © 1994, Fred Townsend. All rights reserved.

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About the author

Fred Townsend is a consulting electronic engineer and owner of DC to Light Consulting Services. His business specialises in noise managed, system, circuit and chip designs in both analog and digital domains. Fred has as rich background in broadcasting; telephone, disk drive, microwave and computer manufacturing; military; and aerospace.

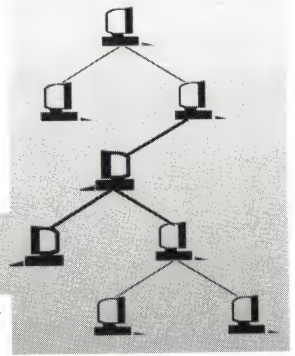
Fred has been a sysop since 1982 when he started his first BBS using a CP/M S100 system with 0.8 MB of storage on two floppy drives. Today his system is a LAN-linked, 4-line, system with over 8 GB of storage. Fred has served as an officer for several user groups and is currently president of the Silicon Valley Computer Society.

Fred is a former member of the faculties of Allen Hancock and Mission Colleges and holds a Bachelor Science degree in Electronic Engineering and an Associate Science degree in Electronic Research and Development Technology. □

Setting up a network

A MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE

Alex McConnell



I thought about setting up a network when I saw the large Local Area Network (LAN) my school had set up. They were sharing one Internet link amongst several computers.

Yes, several computers were using a single modem to access the Internet at the same time!

This was appealing. Since we already had two PCs, both using Windows 95, I thought I'd give it a try. My intention was to link the two PCs together, via network cards, so between the two PCs we could share hard disks, the printer and the modem.

Modem sharing was the main reason I wanted to link our two PCs, so two of us could use the Internet at once. I would put an end to disputes about who would use the modem, solving a common problem in many families today.

Choosing the network cards and cables

The network cards were the first items that we've ever purchased that weren't researched. All I knew about network cards at the time, was that NE2000 compatible Ethernet cards were the ones that I would need if I wanted to be able to share the modem. So NE2000 compatible Ethernet cards were what we purchased. I chose the ISA versions of the cards, as, for nearly double the price, the PCI versions didn't offer anything amazingly special or much speed improvement over the ISA cards. The average price of a network card at a swap meet is about \$30.

The cable was the second integral part of this setup. So Dad and I wandered around the Collingwood swap meet, looking for some cable. We asked around, because the network cards had two ports. After asking a couple of people about which cable would be the fastest, we purchased the blue cable (\$25 for 10 metres), which we eventually learnt was a grave mistake. But more about that later.

Setting up the network

We got home, and I took the cases off both of the computers. The network cards had poor manuals, consisting of nothing more than a fanfolded small sheet of paper, totalling about a quarter

of an A4 sheet. All I really needed to do was insert each card into a free ISA slot, switch on the PCs, and wait for Windows to load. I installed the drivers that came with the network cards, and being plug and play, Windows detected them and set them up for me. Stage one complete!

Then came a major problem. The two PCs couldn't see each other on the network. I tried everything. The Windows help files weren't much help either. They mentioned everything except the one thing I needed to know, and that was... *if you don't have a hub (a box that many network cables connect to), you cannot use blue cables.*

Two days later, the two PCs were still unable to see each other on the network. So I had a chat with a mate and looked at his setup. That's when I noticed that he was using coaxial (thick, black cable —also called BNC) instead of the blue stuff we were trying to use.

Since changing the cable was the only thing I hadn't tried yet, I gave it a go. Fortunately, the people we bought the blue cable from were very helpful and swapped the cable over for us.

The coaxial cable was a little cheaper, but we needed to purchase "terminators" for both ends of the cable to act as dead ends. Those cost \$3 each.

We went home. Dad attached the coaxial cable to the network cards and...Voila!

We had a network!

Fantastic. Everything worked like a charm. Setting up printer and file sharing was an absolute pushover (once we had the correct cables).

Can you do it too?

If you are all thumbs or not 100% sure of your computer literacy, setting up a network might be too big a step for your first time fiddling with the inside bits, so you might want to have someone else do it for you. Or have a friend with experience standing by to answer questions or shout "No!" before you do anything foolish.

But if you've installed an expansion card and know how to install drivers in Windows, then you shouldn't have any problems setting your own network in Windows 95.

About modem sharing

That was why I wanted to set up a network in the first place. Well, setting up modem sharing isn't quite as straightforward as setting up the network was. In fact it was a tricky process. It requires a COM-port-sharing program such as the one we use, WinGate. Because there are so many things to set up in WinGate, I'm not going to even try to explain how to do it. And before you try setting up a network to use WinGate or any other COM-port-sharing program, check the details of your ISP's service agreement. For example, the Melb PC service agreement specifically prohibits this type of use.

Melb PC members can download WinGate from the Melb PC BBS. Non-members can download it from the Deerfield Communications Company's web site <http://www.deerfield.com/wingate/>. It's worth a visit to the site no matter where you get the program. The site has useful links to information that will help you set up WinGate. The WinGate instruction file is also extremely detailed and very informative. □

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What does membership of Melb PC offer you?

BENEFITS OF BELONGING



Strength

Melbourne PC User Group Inc. has over 11,500 members and is the largest PC User Group in the world. It was founded in 1983, and is still run for its members, people like you.

The Group employs full-time office staff and some part-time help. Some services are provided by contractors, but the other functions of the club—magazine writing and editing, online services maintenance; collection and distribution of shareware; organisation of SIG and monthly meetings and more, is performed by volunteers.

The Group today proudly has a membership of people from all walks of life and with a broad range of computer skills. With this vast store of knowledge, members have access to information and help in numerous fields—programming, software solutions, DOS and Windows, communications, to name just a few.

Magazine

Melb PC's magazine, *PC Update*, is sent to members 11 times a year. *PC Update* publishes articles written by members and all members are welcome, indeed encouraged, to write articles on a subject they know about, to share with others. *PC Update* occasionally reprints articles from overseas user groups, to keep Melb PC members as up-to-date as possible.

PC Update has won awards in each of the last six years in the International User Groups' Newsletter Contest. Some of the many awards it has won are "Best Feature Articles," "Best Publication," "Best Features and Reviews," and "Best Columnist." It has also been runner-up in "Best Publication" and "Best Layout and Design." Many people join the Group just for the value *PC Update* provides, well worth the annual membership fee on its own, and then discover all the other benefits of membership.

A year's membership of Melb PC, which includes having *PC Update* delivered to you, costs about as much as it does to buy a year's issues over the counter.

Computer First-Aid and Dial Help

This unique service is made available free to members simply because volunteers within the Group give their time and knowledge to assist with any computing problems you may have. About 300 telephone numbers of unpaid volunteers, with day- and night-time contacts, are mailed to members with their *PC Update*. The service covers over 120 separate topics.

Training

The Group provides training in a diverse range of computer skills, from starting with computers to advanced programming.

Melb PC has its own fully-equipped training centre, using networked Pentium systems. Courses are run as a service to members, making them very cost-competitive when compared to similar courses elsewhere.

Students learn in a classroom environment with one computer per student. Courses include applications (such as Quicken, Excel and Word), BBS and Internet usage, and operating systems such as DOS and Windows.

Most classes are run in the evenings or at weekends, when parking is readily available. The Club's rooms are also easily accessible by public transport.

All courses provide suitable training material and support and a list of courses on offer to members appears in each issue of *PC Update*.

Monthly Meeting

Each month, except January, Melb PC holds a meeting, open to members and visitors. The meeting is usually addressed by representatives from the computer industry on topics of general interest. They frequently give away samples of software and other products. These speakers include many from Australian vendors and distributors—we have also been privileged to be addressed by CEOs such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn, Gordon Eubanks and others who made special visits to address our members.

There is also the ability to address questions to the membership at large, seeking advice or problem-solving. Shareware and diskettes are sold and members socialise and discuss anything that takes their fancy—even computers!

Following the meeting many members gather for a meal, arranged at a convenient restaurant, at "user-friendly" prices.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Group has SIGs covering many aspects of computer use. A SIG can deal with any topic relating to personal computing, ranging from particular applications to hardware and programming, or how to get the best from your equipment.

There are also regional SIGs, for members in outlying geographical areas.

A list of meeting dates, places and contacts for SIGs is published each month in *PC Update*, with reports of past and future activities. All SIG meetings are available to any member.

Bulletin Board

Melb PC operates a free 23-hours-a-day bulletin board system (BBS) as another member service. The BBS, running on 34 lines, is the biggest OS/2-based BBS in the world.

The BBS has two main functions—electronic mail and message exchange, and file transfer facilities. The mail and messaging facilities enable members to exchange messages with each other and to seek help on a wide range of topics, not only from other members but also from the world-wide PC community. This service gives BBS users access to an enormous pool of experience and talent on a vast array of subjects. If you have a problem, put a message on the BBS and, more often than not, it's answered in a day or so!

The BBS carries many files on a range of topics. These have been uploaded by members who found them useful and can be downloaded by other members. They include many useful utilities and the latest versions of shareware software, often obtained from overseas BBSs before appearing in other Australian outlets.

Internet Service

The club provides access to a 127-line full-featured Internet service, providing access to Usenet, ftp, irc, www, gopher and telnet.

SLIP/PPP accounts are provided. This popular service is being expanded and enhanced to serve a larger number of members.

Software Library

Melb PC maintains an extensive and up-to-date software library of programs (over 1300 disks, with about 50 new disks added each month) for IBM-type personal computers, obtained from around the world. This library of shareware software is available only to Melb PC members and is supplied on new disks at very low prices.

An order form for this software is in every issue of *PC Update*.

Shareware Registration

Much of the most popular software on Melb PC's Bulletin Board and in its software library is shareware, i.e. try free and pay only if you like and use it.

The club organises bulk shareware registrations, usually at a substantial discount.

Club-organised registrations also save members the costs of US-dollar bank drafts and overseas postage. □

MELB PC Membership Application

Personal details

Title Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Dr ☐ Oth. ☐ Ref: PCU 0597

First name Middle initial

Last name

Postal address

Postcode

Country

Business phone ()

Home phone ()

Job title

Employer

I do ☐ / do not ☐ want to receive occasional promotional mail from commercial organisations.

I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc. and agree to abide by its rules while I am a member.

Signature

Date

Membership details

Type	New	Renewal	Amount
Individual (extra family members at \$10 each)	\$60 ☐	\$50 ☐	\$
	\$10 ☐	\$10 ☐	\$
Corporate (two representatives, extra representatives at \$60 each)	\$130 ☐	\$120 ☐	\$
	\$60 ☐	\$60 ☐	\$
Student or Pensioner (see notes)	\$50 ☐	\$40 ☐	\$
	\$50 ☐	\$40 ☐	\$

Notes:

- Students must attach a photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming *full-time* student status.
- Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pension Concession Card.
- Please attach a list if more than one family or corporate member is being nominated with this application.
- Corporate members may change representatives by giving notice in writing to the secretary.

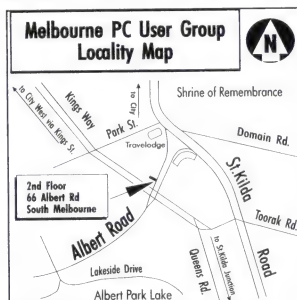
Total \$

Training order form

Course Title	Starting Date	Amount
Total:		

Members' discounts

If you are a member or advertiser offering a discount on goods or services to Melb PC members, on production of their membership cards, please contact the office to register your offer, which will then be listed in future issues of *PC Update*.



For membership application or renewal, or training orders, please use the remittance and/or credit card form on the next page.

Top choice shareware

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in *PC Update* for up-to-date listings of other disks—use the lower part of this order form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Format	Qty	Amount
Shareware Catalogue & New Member Disk	0000	3.5 / 5.25		
Graphics Workshop for DOS	8015	3.5		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 3.x	8064	3.5		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 95	8562	3.5		
Growit	8157	3.5		
List	1490	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee VirusScan for DOS	8018	3.5		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.x (2-disk set)	8626/27	3.5		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95 (2-disk set)	8664/65	3.5		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110-12	3.5		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235	3.5 / 5.25		
Real Audio Player for Windows 3.x	8364	3.5		
Real Audio Player for Windows 95	8592	3.5		
Telix for DOS	8062	3.5		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129/30	3.5		
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter II	8012	3.5		
Melb PC Internet kits (special prices)				
Windows 3.x @\$10 per set (3-disk set)	8711-13	3.5		
Windows 95 @\$20 per set (6-disk set)	8714-19	3.5		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		

Postage/Packing is included

Costs: first disk (per order) \$5, second disk \$4, third and subsequent disks \$3 each

Total:

I am ☐ under 15 years of age
☐ under 18 years of age
☐ over 18 years of age

Signature:

Buy your diskettes from Melb PC

Member details

Name

Membership number:

Delivery details

Delivery Address

State

Postcode

Order details

Brand/Size	Cost (Box of 10)	Number of boxes	Value
Memorex 5.25-inch HD (1.2 MB)	\$12.50		
Memorex 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$15.00		
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Enclose a cheque or use the credit card authority below

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I enclose a cheque made payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc. for \$

Date

Please debit my:

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Visa

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with \$

Card expiry date

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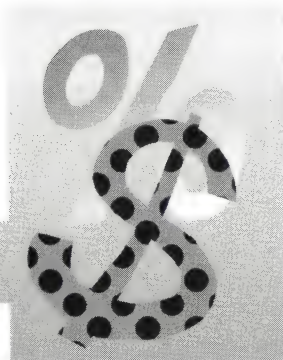
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20%—(not hardware) on consultancy, data backup/storage, maintenance, hardware.

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Greensborough

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Fax: (03) 9434 6033

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10%—off computer systems (includes free 24-hour software/technical support.) \$40 for up to two hours of maintenance and/or support

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Ph: (03) 9326 2776

Fax: (03) 9326 2797

10%—service and repairs, new and secondhand parts and systems.

PC-Home Direct

Greenvale

Ph: (03) 9333 3856

Fax: (03) 9333 2646

5%—Texas Instruments, Toshiba & Samsung notebook computers, Packard Bell desktop computers.

PLC Computers

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Fax: (03) 9870 3288

20%—labour on upgrades, 5% on some new systems.

Pollock Computer & Technical

Services

Hampton

Ph: (03) 9598 3186

Fax: (03) 9598 3186

20%—Personal PC tuition and problem solution.

Protege Solutions

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Ph: (03) 9558 9198

Fax: (03) 9558 9197

15%—all fax/modems and ethernet products.

Summit Computers

Lilydale

Ph: (03) 9739 6269

Fax: (03) 9735 0503

20%—on labour (service, networks, etc), 6%—hardware and software.

Books, magazines, software, etc

Advanced Computer Products

St. Albans

Ph: (03) 9364 1886

Fax: (03) 9367 3639

20%—all computer books and software.

Capricorn Programming Services

Frankston

Ph: (03) 9775 5377

Fax: (03) 9774 5434

10%—on Scanlab Vol.1 Anitvirus and virus education kit.

Collins Booksellers

(Technical and Academic Centre)

Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9654 3144

10%—computer books.

Computer Book Company

Mt. Evelyn

Ph: (03) 9737 0411

Fax: (03) 9737 0433

20%—all computer books, mail order.

Cyber Pty Ltd

Hampton

Ph: (03) 9521 0655

Fax: (03) 9521 0729

10%—Vet antivirus software for purchase.

Dymocks, Shop 2

Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9663 1344

Fax: (03) 9663 1581

10%—computer books, no magazines.

Dymocks

Brighton

Ph: (03) 9592 1911

Fax: (03) 9592 1611

10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Westfield Shopping Town,

Doncaster

Ph: (03) 9848 7209

Fax: (03) 9848 7307

10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Frankston

Ph: (03) 9770 0300

Fax: (03) 9770 0400

10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Fountain Gate

Ph: (03) 9796 6459

Fax: (03) 9796 6509

10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Pran Central, Prahran

Ph: (03) 9510 2100

Fax: (03) 9519 2520

10%—computer books.

Trevor Gibbs

Melton

Ph: (03) 9743 8917

15%—books: *Windows Whys* and *Easy DOS It*, \$16.95 each, \$32 for both. Incl diskettes.

ITS Information Technology Systems

Greenvale

Ph/Fax: (03) 9333 2197

20%—computer books, Educational Software.

Maec Booksellers and Stationers

Mount Waverley

Ph: (03) 9807 1899

10%—computer books.

McGills Authorised Newsagency

Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9602 5566

10%—computer books.

Polyester Books

Fitzroy

Ph: (03) 9419 5223

Fax: (03) 9419 5451

10%—on all fiction, science, computer and non-fiction titles, magazines, comics & T-shirts.

RMIT Bookshop

Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9663 5855

Fax: (03) 9663 7528

10%—all books.

Technical Book and

Magazine Company

Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9663 3951

10%—computer books.

The Worsley Press

Rutherglen

Freecall: 1800 622 805

Ph/Fax: (060) 32 8122

10%—& free postage.

Other services

Adept Accounting and Taxation

Mill Park

Ph: (03) 9436 7604

10%—on all taxation return preparation and business accounting services.

Express Bookkeeping

Carnegie

Ph: (03) 9563 4770

Fax: (03) 9563 4477

10%—on all bookkeeping and financial management services.

Min Thong Lee

c/- AP Insurance Brokers

Queen St, Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9602 1869

Fax: (03) 9602 1876

5%—life insurance, loans, home & contents, motor, commercial.

Michaels Camera and Video

Melbourne

Ph: (03) 9670 1333

Fax: (03) 9670 0074

up tp 10%—on digital cameras, scanners, Internet video conferencing, scanning bureau.

Mike McKeon Music

Dingley Village

Ph: (03) 9551 7363

5%—on our Octet or 10% on a 14 pce. Big Band and two vocalist. Discount off Musicians' Award rates. For Dinner dances, balls, weddings and other special events.

Newtech R&D

Kilsyth

Ph/Fax: (03) 9723 7535

10%—on electronics consumer product design and Japanese translation.

Tortoise Head Guest House

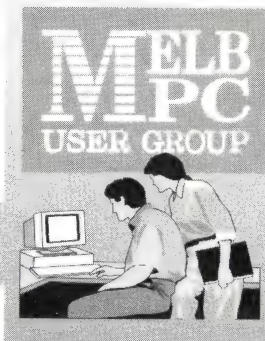
French Island

Ph: (03) 5980 1234

Fax: (03) 5980 1222

10%—on accommodation, fully catered, adjacent bay.

Special interest group meetings



CLUB ACTIVITIES

Access (Database)

Ray Watson
(03) 9883 4382 AH
Fax: (03) 9576 9591
2nd Monday, 6.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Assembly & Other Languages

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9523 5400 AH
1st Thursday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Ballarat

Ken Smith
(03) 5332 7851 BH & AH
kensmith@giant.bnc.com.au
1st Thursday, 7.30 pm
(except school holidays)
Ballarat & Clarendon
College, Junior School
Campus
614 Mair St Ballarat

Basic

Andrew Callaway
(03) 9619 4067 BH
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Bendigo

Russell Collins
(03) 5439 3708
2nd Wednesday, 7.30 pm
Girton Grammar School
(Computer Room)
105 Mackenzie Street
Bendigo
(Vine Street entrance)

C/C++ Programming

Ken Holmes
(03) 9583 1504 BH & AH
4th Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Clarion

Alan King
(03) 9882 8044 BH
4th Wednesday, 6.30 pm
Suite 9,
96 Camberwell Road
East Hawthorn
(Through wire gate and
up the stairs on the
south-east side of
Roseberry St)

Communications

Philip Lew
(03) 9822 2998 BH
(Brief calls please)
2nd Wednesday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Daytime

Felix van Lier
Felixvl@melppc.org.au
(03) 9525 3962 BH & AH
Asst convener:
Brian Taylor
2nd Thursday, 10.00 am
Melb PC SIG Room

East

Keith Lane
(03) 9762 6644 Anytime
(03) 9761 1414 Fax
keithln@melbpc.org.au
Asst convener:
Stewart Tanner
(03) 9879 9776
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Gas and Fuel Theatre
200 Rooks Road, Vermont

East Workshop

Aldo Pitre
(03) 9878 7959
aldop@melbpc.org.au
Asst convener:
Ian Paterson
(03) 9755 2238
Ring for dates
Unit 11,
27-33 Rooks Road
Mitcham.
(Offices of Haldatec P/L)

Freeware and Shareware

Doug Westcott
(03) 9898 2765 AH
dougw@melbpc.org.au
Co-convener: Tony James
3rd Tuesday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Graphics

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
Asst convener:
Kevin Gorie
3rd Monday, 7.45 pm
We meet in the bungalow
at the rear of Nadish
Naoraji's home,
8 Park Crescent
North Caulfield

Hardware

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9523 5400 AH
3rd Wednesday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Music

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
Asst convener: Eric Best
(03) 9646 6898 AH
2nd Thursday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, Central

Graham Paul
(03) 9417 5315 AH
3rd Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, East

Doug Brooke
(03) 9822 3458 BH & AH
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
St Mark's Anglican
Church,
Cnr Canterbury & Burke
Rds
Camberwell

OS/2

John Angelico
talldad@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9544 8792
4th Tuesday, 6.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Quicken

Viv Martin
martinv@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9583 5372 AH
4th Thursday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Retired & Interested Persons

Ken Thomas
(03) 9803 6229 BH & AH
4th (not last) Friday,
10.00 am
Lutheran Church
25 Cypress Avenue
Glen Waverley

Turbo Pascal

Ross Hall
(03) 5428 6470 AH
(03) 9699 4000 BH
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

UNIX

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
3rd Thursday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Video Editing (Linear)

Albert Vanzet
(03) 9439 1768
vanzet@melbpc.org.au
4th Monday, 6.30 pm
Michaels Camera Store
269 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne

Video Editing (Non-linear)

Lawrie Weston
(03) 9742 373
Kevin Gorie
(03) 9870 3965
2nd Monday, 6.30 pm
Michaels Camera Store
269 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne

Waffle

Vince Thornton
018 171 344 or
Andrew Callaway
(03) 9619 4067 BH
"Eat-ins" after monthly
meeting.

Warragul

Gordon Ross
(03) 5623 5484 AH
1st Friday, 7.30 pm
Warragul Leisure Center
Function Room

Windows

Mikhail Bortolotto
(03) 9888 2360 AH
1st Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

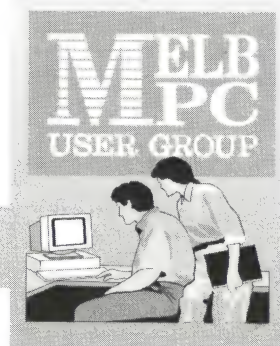
Word Processing/DTP

Loraine Briggs
(03) 9563 6396 AH
014 693 882
lbriggs@melbpc.org.au
4th Friday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

The Blind Citizens Support Group
meets at 7.45 pm on the 3rd Tuesday
of each month, at 1st Floor, 87 High
Street, Prahran. For further details,
please contact John Machin, on (03)
9569 1440 (BH).

SIG meeting reports

CLUB ACTIVITIES



Bendigo

Russell Collins

At our April meeting, Tim Newbegin, the Archives Officer from LaTrobe University, gave a very interesting address on the history of databases and some comprehensive information on the organisation and backing up of data.

The program for the year is starting to come together, in May Andrew Moon is returning to discuss the new MMX Pentium chip, and general quality of computer components. June is planned as Genealogy, with speakers from G.U.M. coming along.

A visit to Coliban Water's offices is planned for July. Now privatised, Coliban Water is operated by Corvico, who are anxious to show off their computers and software. August will be dedicated to Farm Software—Alan Stevens, who is an agronomist with Westfarmers Dalgety, and has also researched a number of Farm Management software packages, will be our speaker.

Any one with a CD-ROM should avail themselves of our ever increasing library of CDs. These are available for \$1 per month from the Bendigo SIG, please talk to Bruce Rivendell.

Daytime

Felix van Lier

March

Forty-three members came to see Doug Brooke's presentation on the Melb PC BBS. Doug covered issues such as hardware, modems, software, preparation, opening screens, menus, message and files areas, offline readers, etc. He also prepared an eight-page, doubled-sided document on accessing the Melb PC BBS, and provided it on disk as well, along with additional information about the message and file areas.

With all this material and a direct link to the BBS, Doug gave us a practical demonstration of how everything works. Thanks to Doug for a most enjoyable and informative presentation.

May

We are looking forward to George Skarbek's Question and Answer session at our May meeting. It would be helpful if members gave me an indication of the sort of questions they would like to ask, so that George can prepare before the meeting.

Absolute beginners

The formation of a daytime Absolute Beginners SIG will depend on the interest of the members. A minimum of 10

members is required to start a new SIG. An Absolute Beginners SIG would be helpful for members who have just purchased a computer and find themselves lost. We can help you find your way out of the maze.

East

Margaret Brown

New meeting location

Good news for members unable to find a seat at the March meeting—we have moved to a larger venue, with seating for 200. We now meet at the Gas and Fuel Theatre, 200 Rooks Road, Vermont. Day and time remain the same.

The popular Question and Answer session was first on the agenda at the March meeting so that anyone unable to make the 7.30 start would not miss the advertised topics. Thanks to members who offered help during this session, and to those who helped at the Sunday workshop.

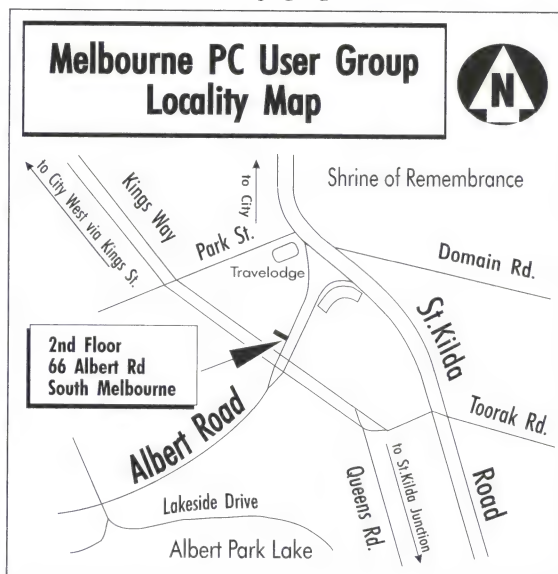
Thanks also to Melb PC President, Stan Johnson who attended the meeting and gave us an overview of the issues and problems affecting members, and answered questions from the floor.

Our shareware segment showcased Paint Shop Pro. Stewart Bedford, our resident web page guru, uses the

Meetings Calendar

(Check with SIG Convener when a SIG meeting falls on a Public or School Holiday)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First	Windows ‡		Main Monthly Meeting Waffle	Assembly & Other Languages ‡ Ballarat	
Second	Access (Database) ‡ Video Editing (non-linear)	Basic/Turbo Pascal ‡ East New Users, East	Bendigo Communications ‡	Music ‡ Daytime ‡	
Third	Graphics New Users, Central ‡	Committee ‡ Freeware and Shareware ‡	Hardware ‡	UNIX ‡	
Fourth	C/C++ Programming ‡ Video Editing (linear)	OS/2 ‡	Clarion	Quicken ‡	Word Processing/DTP ‡ Retired and Interested Persons



‡ Many SIGs meet at Melb PC's premises, on the second floor at 66 Albert Road, South Melbourne.

program extensively. The image manipulation he demonstrated was quite remarkable, although in the limited time available we were only able to view a few of the program's features. Stuart believes that it is worth downloading and trialling.

The East sig aims to offer a balance of topics to satisfy all levels of computer expertise, however there is so much interest in the Internet, even from members who are not yet using modems, that the Internet was again the evening's main topic.

The discussion and demonstration covered the spectacular growth of communication technology over the past 30 years. Using FTP (File Transfer Protocol) we located files on a computer in the USA and transferred them to our demonstration computer in minutes. We saw that browsers could make similar procedures even easier, and we all learnt one important lesson, if it is coloured and underlined, click on it. Sending personal information, presents obvious problems, so advice concerning security was most important. Various methods of encryption were explained as were the special requirements for banking procedures.

As a follow-up we have arranged a hands on session at a nearby college facility. Ten dollars for an hour-and-a-half with some of the more experienced members offering assistance. Planned topics include the use of mailers, news-groups, IRC and web browsers. As the numbers are limited and the cost very reasonable we anticipate a heavy demand for places.

Tips and Tricks take on a whole new meaning when Keith Beresford is in control. With something for everyone, this is fast becoming the most entertaining and popular session of the evening.

Another most enjoyable evening with thanks to all who assisted.

Graphics

Yahya Abdal-Aziz

This SIG is the place to see, show and discuss any aspect of graphics—used in personal computing with PCs. We warmly invite any member of Melb PC to drop in and share a pleasant evening. Tea and coffee are available, for which we request a small contribution, whether in kind or in cash. As always, we thank our host Nadish for his hospitality and the use of his equipment.

Shareware reviews

Late last year, I gave Graphics sig members a couple of dozen interesting titles from the shareware library. They agreed to try them out, then write a couple of factual paragraphs saying what they *really* think of them and why.

Several members have already given me their responses. To anyone who hasn't written their fifty words yet—I'm

still interested! I prefer to get text for publication as a message or file on the BBS. I will collate and pass on to Glenn Webster what I have now. We now publish "blurbs" based on the software authors' promotional text. Our review should be a useful and objective supplement to them.

Animation

Myles Strous showed us the character animation capabilities of the CD-ROM-based Hash 3D Animation, which he talked about last year.

The scene editor lets you set up key frames and paths for characters and the camera. The main window gives a wireframe perspective view. Other windows show its three standard projections—plan, front elevation and side elevation. The paths are splines, that is smooth curves flowing between points you place and move with the mouse.

You can use one of the many pre-defined characters, or construct your own in one of three ways. First, you can join simple geometric solids (cones, cylinders and boxes). Second, you can draw a freehand spline and lathe it. Lastly, you can draw the spline and extrude it. After building the character's shape, you then apply different surface textures to it.

Using the first approach, Myles created a hopping gnome with a floppy hat. The hat showed the program's interesting ability to "skin," that is smoothly join, two shapes. Myles made the hat by cutting the end off a cone, then skinning the two pieces together. He then positioned each part of the hat separately, but constrained by the elastic join between them. Easier to do than say!

Dabbling

Kevin Gorie showed us Fractal Design Dabbler 1.0. This is a paint program for those who want the fun of Fractal Design Painter, at a fraction of the price. The program provides tools to make pictures in a style completely different to, say, PC Paintbrush.

Kevin's main complaint with Dabbler was its idiosyncratic user interface. He was just being polite. It really is silly to ignore the benefits of a standard interface, even when it is sub-standard! The interface is not even the same as that in Painter. If a Painter user wants to use it as a quick sketching tool, he or she will first need to spend some time learning it.

Themes for the rest of 1997

May—Morphing
June—Scanning—hardware and software
July—Painting and drawing
August—Image processing software
September—Graphics printing—hardware and software
October—Animation software
November—Ray-tracing
December—The Christmas party

Music

Yahya Abdal-Aziz

The Music SIG aims to explore the ways in which using PCs can enhance musical experience, with a special focus on the creative side. We'll do anything reasonable to help you enjoy music-making more.

Activities include

- Presentations of music hardware and software
- Performance of new music, by members and others, every meeting
- Hands-on workshops with interesting gear
- Tutorials on techniques—whether notation, composition, arrangement
- Demonstrations by professional musicians
- Group composition (or just jammin')

Equipment

What is the best value in sound cards? A member said "If you can afford it, get the Sound Blaster AWE 32. But don't buy the *Value Edition*. It gives you only half a megabyte for samples, which is not enough."

We wanted better equipment for the sig machine, and agreed on a Sound Blaster AWE 32 sound card, a double-speed CD-ROM and powered speakers. Good news, the Committee has approved the equipment outlined here, and will purchase it.

That synth

Remember your old analog synth? That Yamaha DX with the custom mods made by Robin Whittle? What, you never heard ...? Well, many people did, and loved them. So we have members keen to get one any way they can.

In particular, John and Murray would both like to find software to emulate an analog synthesizer on the PC. They reckon they'll even write it if they must.

It may not be necessary. I've just received a message from a member on the Internet, saying he saw one about 18 months ago. As soon as I locate it, I'll bring it to a sig meeting for a look-see-play.

Q&Q

Two requests from members, not yet answered:

- Where can I get Scott Joplin rags as MIDI files? and
- Is there a MIDI sequencer that will run on either Linux or Windows NT?

If you know the answer to either, please e-mail to yahya@melbpc.org.au, or message Yahya Abdal-Aziz on the BBS. (They're actually the same bloke.) Or better still, come along to the next meeting and share your knowledge.

The future

It's up to you what you make of this sig—just like every other sig. Membership continues to grow, but if you're into music, we want to meet *you* there too. Come along and be a "heard" animal.

John Angelico

At our March meeting we welcomed about fifteen OS/2 users, including some new people, and introduced our special guest Franz Walkow, OS/2 Evangelist and Consulting Systems Engineer, from IBM Melbourne.

Franz has an impressive background in the architecture and design of OS/2 within IBM.

Franz explained the difference between Token Ring and Ethernet operation in clear no-nonsense terms. We outlined the kinds of difficulties which can beset one when setting up a peer network and how we overcame them. Many aspects which had previously required anguished pleas in BBS message areas and across the Internet were non-existent in Warp 4, where considerable effort has been taken to supply drivers and other support software plus an intelligent installation routine to guide users through the install.

Questions from the floor sought more details regarding inter-operation with workstations running Win95, WinNT and other OS software. There is an extraordinary range of workstations and environments which can be connected out of the box, plus others (e.g. AppleTalk) which can be connected with add-on (and usually low cost) software modules available from IBM or its resellers. For anyone who wants to see this network inter-operation with Win95 and WinNT, one of the desktop Ethernet machines will remain set up at the Computer Boss showroom. Ask John for more details.

Franz fielded OS/2 questions and responded with particular insight into the design and construction phases of OS/2. Warp 3 was subjected to extensive testing both inside IBM and by means of 1200+ contractors. With Warp 4, the base code of Warp 3 was taken with the latest Fixpack and cleaned up, i.e. overlapping fixes were rationalised down to clean, tight code. This code was subjected to a number of "maximum load tests"—the OS had to withstand seven full days (168 hours!) continuous running under heavy operational load without breaking.

This explains why some bugs discovered late in the test cycle could not be removed—if a reasonable production and shipping schedule was to be maintained and a product shipped, this kind of testing had to stop somewhere. Hence IBM has revised their bug-fix, upgrade and production cycle for OS/2. During 1997 we will see approximately quarterly releases in all the usual software distribution channels, followed by a major release in early 1998.

On the stance taken by IBM to supposedly "abandon" non-corporate users in favour of the big corporate world, Franz explained the background of IBM, outlined the restrictions still in force from the Dept of Justice Consent Decree (30 years old:

most of the terms have expired but ten significant factors still remain) and unspun the "spin doctor" reports which filled the trade press. IBM has arranged for Business Partners to look after people like us—small to medium business, single users, SOHO and "hobbyists." So ask around for your nearest IBM Business Partner when you are next looking for anything OS/2 related.

Our next meeting on 27 May 1997 will be on JAVA and multi-platform applications. Corel OfficeSuite for Java.

Future plans:

- Special for new users: Warp up and running with performance and tuning tips
- Shareware reviews: (please report back on what you would like to learn about)
- meeting with IBM business partners
- OS/2 and related literature (McGills computer section)

Retired & Interested Persons**Bill Cooney****March**

Despite our regular meeting day falling on Good Friday, more than 100 people showed up, all eager for the slightest clue about how to do it better or easier, or how to tame the one-eyed monster on the desk at home. The long-awaited RIP SIG database of our members, their strengths and interests, was released at this meeting. Copies were snapped up quickly during the tea break. Disks will be available next meeting, if you missed out. Thanks to the DBASE group, and Gordon McMahon in particular, for the work done preparing the disk.

News

Max Collyer is still not up to scratch but we were pleased to hear that his health has greatly improved.

Display

The guest display was Digital Cameras. The impressive array of gear generated a lot of interest. Gary, Clive and Chris (from Michaels Camera Store, Compro Digital Cameras and A.C.S. Innovations, respectively) were our presenters. Unfortunately the setup let Chris

down and there was little video to see, although what we did see was very exciting.

May

The May meeting will include a Swap'n'Sale period, a good opportunity to dispose profitably of that outdated gear or snap up the odd bargain.

Come early and bring your wallet!

Plans for future meetings

One of the subjects planned for a future meeting is CD technology—a quickly developing field that should be of great help to users.

Turbo Pascal**Ross Hall**

The March Basic/Turbo Pascal meeting was very much a Delphi affair where Power and Visual Basic took a bit of a back seat for the evening.

Among the topics discussed were:

- Comparisons between Delphi 1.0, Delphi 2.0 and Borland Pascal for Windows. Particularly in relation to the ease of construction of resources such as menuing systems.
- We had a dig into the Windows 95 registry to find out how time zone information was stored.
- Scheduling software for trams and trains. How it keeps tabs on the location of vehicles and why the scheduling task is so complex.
- Problems with help sections in Delphi 2.0. In quite a few areas there is a blank page for a particular subject, where there should be descriptions of object methods.

The evening finished up with a combined effort to quickly throw together an AVI file viewer in Delphi 2.0. Getting the viewer to show an AVI file was dead simple, it was things like a progress bar and elapsed timer that started the search through the help files (and hence the problems with the missing help pages.) This was a good example of the use of a rapid application development program, such as Delphi, and how a fully working program can be built in a very short time. With the multimedia components provided as standard, the serious coding begins when one starts to deviate from or enhance the supplied objects. But at least you hear noises and see pictures right from the start.

The meeting closed at about 10.30 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13 May. Hope to see you there. □

POLLOCK Computer & Technical Services

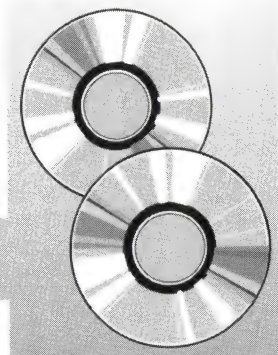
Personal Tuition & PC Problem Solutions
In your Home or Office at Times to Suit
Prompt & Friendly Service 7 Days a Week
MS Dos Windows 3.11 Windows 95

Internet Tuition & Configuration a specialty Members Discounts
Phone/Fax (03) 9598 3186 Mobile 018 543 841
lynn@melbpc.org.au

Get the most from your computer's CD player and Win 95

TUTORIAL

Frank Schuffelen



If you want to play music CDs through your computer's CD-ROM drive, just insert the CD into the drive. The CD-Player program should be loaded automatically and the CD should start playing. If it doesn't, you may need to set the CD-ROM drive parameters, as follows:

- Click on *Start*
- Point to *Settings*
- Click on *Control Panel*
- Double-click on *System*
- Click on the *Device Manager* tab
- Click on the [+] in front of the CD-ROM drive (this will display the details of

- your CD-ROM drive on the next line)
 - Click on the line with the CD's details, then click on the *Properties* button
 - Click on the *Settings* tab
 - Click on the *Auto insert notification* option (a tick will appear in front of it)
- Now close any opened windows you no longer need. From now on, music CDs will play automatically, when they are inserted into your CD-ROM.

Before you start playing your CDs you may want to set some preferences for your CD-ROM player.

If your CD-Player icon is showing on your Win 95 TaskBar, click on it. This will bring the CD-Player window to the foreground. Display the CD-Player's ToolBar, with its icons, by clicking on *ToolBar* (this will place a tick in front of it). You will now see the ToolBar, with its icons.



Figure 1.

Setting your preferences

I like to see the time remaining on each track, rather than the elapsed time, so I have clicked on *Track time remaining* (placing a tick in front of it). You can set other preferences by clicking on *Options*, then *Preferences*. For example, you might want to select *Random Order* or *Continuous Play*, or both.

The details

Instead of having a Play List that reads, Track 1, Track 2, and so on, you can edit the it to display the a listing of the artist's name, title of the CD, and the title of each track on the CD as follows:

- Click on the left icon on the ToolBar, or click on *Disc*

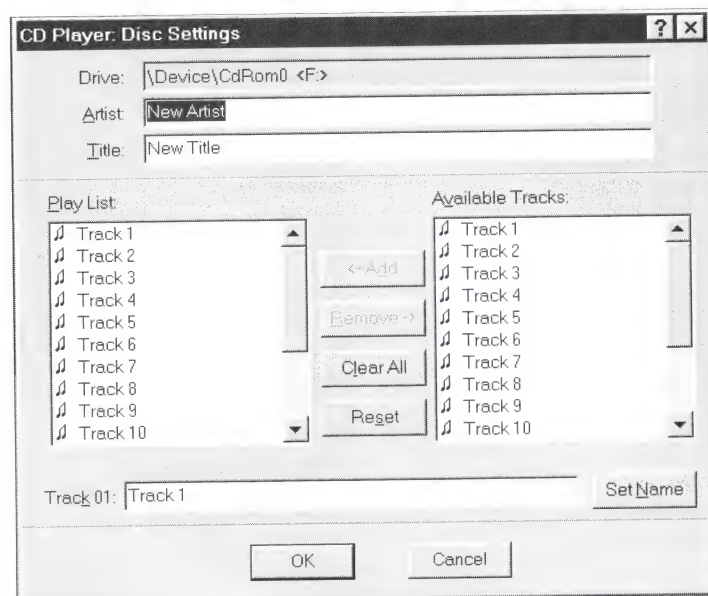


Figure 2.

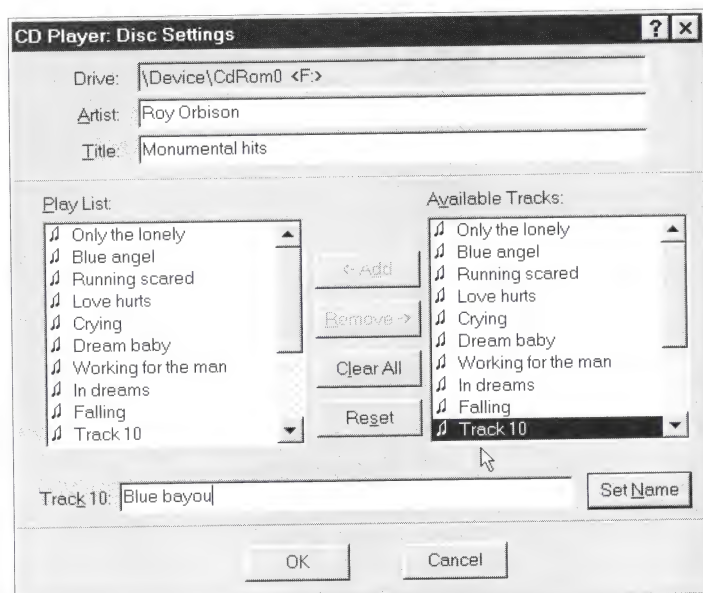


Figure 3.

similar to

standard

CD player...

have some fun

- Click on Edit Play List (the cursor will now be in the "Artist" field and "New Artist" will be selected)
- Enter the artist's name and when you've finished, press the Tab key (the cursor will move to the "Title" field, where the words "New Title" will be selected)
- Enter the title of the CD and press the Tab key five times, to select "Track 1" in the field at the bottom of the window
- Enter the name of the first track, then press the Enter key **not Tab**, or you can click on the *Set Name* box. (This will select the next track.)

Repeat this process until you have finished entering the names of all the tracks.

When you've finished you can make corrections by reselecting any track and changing the information.

Favourites

If you want to hear all the tracks on that CD, in the order they appear on the CD, just click on the OK button, and the Play List table will display all the tracks available (in the same order as on the CD). The data will be written to a file (CDPLAYER.INI) in the Windows folder.

What if...

Let's say that you only like some of the tracks on the CD. If you only want to hear those, you can edit the play list as follows:

- Click on the *Edit Play List* icon
- From the *Play List* table on the left, select the first track **you don't want to hear**
- Click on the *Remove* button (that track won't be played, unless you edit the play list again, by selecting it in the *Available Tracks* table and clicking on the *Add* button)

Customising the order of play

The easiest way to set the CD player to play all the tracks (or just the ones you have selected) in a different order from the way they were recorded, or to play some tracks more than once:

- Click on the Clear All button
- In the *Available Tracks* table on the right, click on the first track you want to hear
- Click on the *Add* button to add that track to the Play List table on the left. Repeat this for every track you want to hear in sequence, repeating any you want to hear more than once. When you finish, be sure to click "Done" button, this will store the information on your hard drive, ready to be recalled each time you play that CD.

If you want to start playing a certain track, just click on the down arrow to the right of the Track field, then click on

the track you want to start with, which will now have the name visible rather than just a track number. Next, press the Play button, and the CD will start playing from that track.

While you're there, take a few minutes and look around. You'll notice other buttons, similar to standard CD player controls (such as Pause, Stop, Rewind, Skip Forward, Skip Backward, Eject, etc. Try them all and have some fun.

How does the computer know...

You may be wondering how the computer keeps track of which CD you've inserted. Each CD has identifying data, including a unique identification number, recorded on to it. That's read by the CD player and compared against the information in the computer's data file. If there's a match (you have entered data for that CD) the computer will display the information you entered, and play the CD as you have specified.

Post script

Having played around with this extensively now, I have now discovered that there is a file size limitation of around 65,000 characters (64 KB). This means that you can only store about 90 to 100 CDs, depending on the number of tracks on each CD. I find this a real drawback to an otherwise excellent piece of software. Presumably the programmers would not have gone to the trouble of entering that many CDs, and I guess I can't blame them. It's time consuming. But I would be nice to have known about the limitation, before I got to the limit. I had entered the information for more than ten CDs over the limit, before I discovered the problem. None of them were saved. And I can think of better things to do with my time than to re-key the entries at a later date.

About the author

Frank Schuffelen is a former member of Melb PC who moved to Queensland. He rejoined to get his regular *PC Update* fix. He is also a member of the Brisbane user group.

He has owned many computers, the first being an Exidy Sorcerer. Frank started a user group, the Sorcerer Users Group, later called Sorcerer Computer Users of Australia, then Personal Computers Support Group, and now Visual Basic Users of Australia. He is an honorary member and the proud holder of membership number "1."

He works for Unisys Information Systems, likes listening to sixties' pop music and collects computer books and magazines. His favourite program, Quicken, has a bad habit of telling him how much he spends on computer hardware and software!

The nitty-gritty about CDPLAYER.INI...or what a CD data file looks like

First there is a hex number in square brackets, which I presume is the unique identifying code for each CD (it's usually six or seven characters long).

The second line is always "EntryType=1" (I don't know what other entry types there are, but there would appear to be others).

The third line always starts with "artist=" followed by the artist's name.

The fourth line always starts with "title=" followed by the CD title. The fifth line always starts with "numtrack=" followed by the number of tracks on the CD.

If you have not entered any titles for individual tracks, that will be all there is for that first CD.

If you have entered titles for the tracks, the next line will be "0=" followed by the title of the first track, then "1=" followed by the title of the second track, and so on.

After the last track, there is a line that shows the order in which you want the tracks played. That line starts with "order=" followed by the order you have specified. (If you look at your CDPLAYER.INI file to check this line, remember that the first track is always called "0", not "1").

Next there will be a line that starts with "numplay=", followed by the number of tracks you have selected in the line above.

Then there will be either one or two blank lines (I have not been able to work out yet why there are occasionally two lines instead of one).

This is followed by the hex number in square brackets for the next CD for which you have entered data. And the sequence described above is repeated for each CD.

If you have re-installed Windows 95 and have two or more CDPLAYER.INI files, you can easily combine them using a DOS editor or Notepad. You can use WordPad instead, but if you do, remember to save the combined file as a "text" (*.TXT) file, not a *.DOC file, otherwise it won't be readable as an *.INI file.

A FIRST LOOK



Peter Smith

I've been using Ventura since its early days, back in the '80s. Then it ran happily on an 640 KB XT. Today the minimum recommended is a 16 MB 486DX2, but I wouldn't use anything less than a Pentium.

I am always wary of new releases of products that I'm very familiar with. Every time a new version of a "production" package hits my desk, I seem to spend several weeks scaling the learning curve.

So, with some apprehension, I opened the box and extracted the two manuals and two CD-ROMs that make up the latest version of Corel VENTURA 7 (CV7).

This time I read the manuals *before* installing the software. That gave me some encouragement. There's a long list of new features, many of which I know I want, some of which will probably be useful, once that learning curve flattens.

New versions of any software package need to meet two, often conflicting, needs—to convince potential new customers to purchase it and to gain acceptance from existing users.

Changing over

My first comments are as an existing user. I use VENTURA to put *PC Update* together. Over a long period, I've built up up techniques—and written some software—that help me with the essential, but tedious, repetitive tasks. I prefer to spend my time not doing the same thing over-and-over, so my initial foray was to take an existing article, and see what CV7 did to it.

[A brief, simplified, aside—in VENTURA 5 (and all earlier versions) I keep an article as a chapter. Each chapter is linked to a style sheet, which stores details of page size, margins, paragraph-style-names, and their associated font, point size, vertical spacing, indentation, and so on. The chapter contains links to external files, such as the text you are reading, and the various photos, graphics, screen shots and advertisements.]

To my mind, the most useful feature of VENTURA is its ability to keep an ASCII text file, separate from the DTP system. This makes it very easy to carry forward files for things such as our discounts page and list of committee, to name just two. It also makes it easy to convert to HTML format for our Web edition.

My first chapter

To trial CV7 I took an existing chapter (the *Breastfeeding* review on page 53 of this issue) and made fresh copies of all its files, in the expectation that anything that might change wouldn't affect the "production" system.

I opened the chapter. Oops. Not all the text was on the page. It didn't start in the same position. Some lines were a different length. "So what's new," I thought. Exactly the same things happened when I converted from version 3 to version 4.

These would be minor annoyances, had it been a new publication, but the least I'd hoped for was one, or perhaps two, little differences. Largely undeterred I pressed on and adjusted the positioning of a few of the elements on the page. *Everything* is measured in inches!

It would have been nice if CV7 had remembered how I'd laboriously set up my frame measurements in millimetres, and my paragraph spacing in points. Still, it can all be changed. After about an hour I had a page that looked, on the screen, similar to what I last saw in version 5.

CV7 saves everything in a single file. To modify the text file outside of CV7 or prepare it for the Web, you gave to export it—another annoying and unnecessary step.

Another frustration concerns the human interface—just about every keyboard shortcut has changed—again. This has been regular occurrence from version 3 to 4 to 5 to 7. There is even a four-page document in the help system, listing all the variations. It's a pity that it's designed for US-letter paper and the important parts of the last column disappear off the right side of the page! On a more useful front, it is possible to, mostly, make CV7 use CV5 shortcuts.

One of my big hopes for CV7 was that it would do a better job of separating the colours to film. (What you see on a colour page is a mixture of black, cyan (a blue), magenta (a red), and yellow inks. As we start with a screen shot that's a mixture of red, green and blue, there's some fancy conversion involved. Version 5, to my eyes, isn't as smart as it could be, tending to produce too much magenta, or not enough cyan, or both.

It's difficult to tell on a black laser print, just how the colours will turn out, although if you print the four separations in black, you do get some inkling.

The next step was to print these separations for both versions 5 and 7, and compare them. Chalk and cheese. What will the printed copy look like? I sent both files to Stephen Davey at Pagination Design Services in Geelong, who makes all the film for *PC Update*, and asked him to make colour proofs.

Things look better

This is where things started looking up. The colours on the CV7 output were much different—less red, and much closer to the way things look on my screen. Bernie's hair was closer to its real life colour, with less reddish tinges. Flesh tones were more natural.

This was the point at which I decided that CV7 would be worth the effort. It was, however, too late in the production cycle for this issue, which has all been produced with version 5.

The future

Watch over the next few months, as I gradually convert. Some of the many new features that I hope to take advantage of, not necessarily all in *PC Update* are

- Master Pages
- Artistic text, in the style of its sibling CorelDRAW!
- Tables that can contain multiple paragraphs or graphics in a cell
- The Library feature, which I expect to simplify the storage of all the common graphics and pictures that we use
- Some of the CorelDRAW! vector and bitmap editing tools
- Web publishing, although I wonder how large its files will be. If they are satisfactory, it may mean that *PC Update Online*, looks much more like *PC Update* on paper.

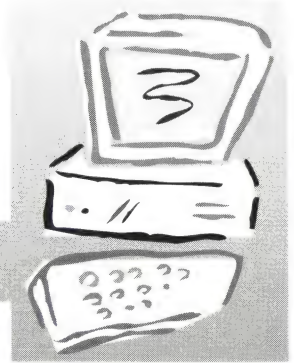
Conclusion

I guess the old adage "You don't get something for nothing" is still true. To gain the benefits, I will endure the pain of conversion. I'd be much happier starting from scratch—CV7 looks to be a worthy competitor to other major DTP offerings. □

Of toads and old computers

LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

Jan Harkin



When I bought my first computer in 1984 it came with a massive 128 KB of memory and a floppy drive. No hard drive, no disk cache. But it had sound and a built-in menu. (It also had a piece of fruit on all its plastic bits but I'll keep quiet about that.)

Newer isn't necessarily better...

My first PC arrived five years later when I started doing the bookwork for our family business. The PC looked much more impressive than my Apple IIc. Until I turned it on. A cursor blinked at me. Apt name that. Where was the menu? I tried the old familiar commands. Nothing. I turned to the manual and looked up logical words like "load" and "run". Nothing. Chapter One had nothing to do with getting me started. Apparently I now had to know how the insides worked before I was could do anything else.

The impulse to hurl something at this frustrating piece of circuitry was strong. I resisted. Charles Wright in the *Green Guide* saved my sanity. I bought some books on his recommendation and lusted after *InfoSelect*. And I enrolled my husband in this group.

In one of Charles's columns he said he felt like Toad of Toad Hall, always wanting computer equipment that was better, faster, more up-to-date. I can still identify with that except for one thing: I miss my old Apple's games.

That's why my old IIc is still in constant use. It's not that I don't love my PC. Whenever I go on holiday my PC goes too. I can't bear to be parted from it. But the children's games on the PC aren't a patch on the old ones.

My two-year-old has just learnt to recognise all the numbers between one and 36. How? By playing a game on the old computer called *Piccadilly Pair*. The game runs off one floppy disk. When you load it a couple of ostriches appear and dance the sailors' horn-pipe as the credits begin to roll. To music, of course. The players then fill in their names. That's right, names. The old computer is very polite. It always refers to each player by name. That ends any fights about whose turn it is. It's the answer to any parent's dream.

The game consists of 36 doors. Behind each door is a crazy critter. Open the door and the critter dances to a snatch of tinny music from some catchy tune: a skeleton dances to *Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones*; a buzzing bee accompanies *The flight of the bumblebee*. It's a simple memory game but I've seen a dozen kids of assorted ages grouped on the floor around the tiny screen singing along as each door is opened.

Where do you see games like that for PCs? Don't laugh. Young kids don't need super-doooper graphics and three million colours. They like action and sound. The old IIc only has one colour and the sound's pretty basic. But the kids love it more than the PC. Why? Because of the games.

The old games encourage cooperation. Lots of kids can play at the same time, taking turns. Watching is almost as much fun as having a turn.

The games have variety. In *Chivalry* the kids become knights on a quest. They shoot arrows at targets, find their way through a maze, catch bags of flour thrown out of the miller's window. All of these things can be done with a joystick or from the keyboard. The keyboard seems to be easier for little hands to manage.

None of these games needs to be run from a hard drive, which means they are only loaded when they are needed and can be put away until they seem fresh again. In other words the kids use them the way they do good books.

Disaster strikes

Last week the old computer started making rude noises and refused to load anything.

"It needs a 'puter doctor," my two-year-old said.

It's too old for a doctor. It's never needed one before despite living on the lounge room floor at the mercy of the kids for 13 years. So I cleaned the floppy drive and hoped for the best.

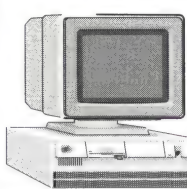
Out came a couple of bits of gunk. We tried loading a disk. One of the game disks half-loaded before it froze. We tried again. The drive made a few more rude noises but suddenly the screen came to life and the two ostriches started strutting their stuff once more.

We all cheered. But it was a bit like

watching a favourite relative who has had a heart attack: we were glad to have it with us again but a bit unsure how long it would survive.

What will we do when the old computer really dies? Life without it won't be the same. Doesn't someone out there want to make simple games for PCs? Games that can run off a floppy. Kid-friendly games that don't involve killing.

I can't even buy games any more. The dealers nearby only stock games on CD. It's enough to make this "Toad" reform. □

**HUGE
COMPUTER
SWAP
MEETS**

Sunday 4th May

Choice of two Swap Meets
MALVERN TOWN HALL
cnr High St & Glenferrie Rd
or
ROYAL MELB. SHOWGROUNDS
Epsom Rd, Ascot Vale

Sunday 11th May

Choice of two Swap Meets
COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL
140 Hoddle St, Collingwood
or
BOX HILL TOWN HALL
1022 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill

Sunday 18th May

CAMBERWELL CIVIC CENTRE
340 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell

Sunday 25th May

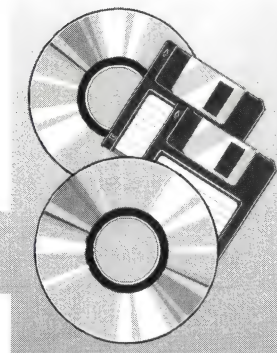
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Shareware/Freeware library update

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Glenn Webster



Updates

Melb 0000

Melb PC Shareware Catalog v3.90 and New Members Disk

This disk contains the details of all of the disks in the Shareware Library of the Melbourne PC User Group. Each disk is described in the same format that you see here. This format enables us to provide more details of each disks contents than a single line entry. It also enables you to use a program such as LIST (provided on this disk) to search for a disk or a program, by name, by number, by category, or by content. A new catalog disk will be released quarterly in the months of February, May, August, and November. The new catalog will contain details of all current disks up to the issue of PC Update for those months. This disk has been amalgamated with the New Members Disk which contains details of the Melbourne PC User Group, its constitution, finances, special interest groups, member services, history, library, magazine, and other features of the group. A number of useful utilities have been included with the disk. All information is accessed by menu. The Catalog and New Members Disk is supplied free to new members.

Melb 1490 LIST v9.2A // LHA v2.13

LIST is a general purpose file browsing/viewing utility with many features, including a file selection/utility menu, selective printing, a telephone dialer, scrollable Windows, and the ability to view files within archives. It is supplied in three versions (Small, Regular and Plus). Documentation on the disk describes the differences between the three versions. This version includes long file name support for Win95. LIST is a "must have" utility. This disk also contains LHA, which is an archiver/unarchiver for .LZH compressed files. Version 2.13 fixes several bugs which crept into the previous version. The source code has been revised and now includes a good deal of optimised assembler so that execution speed is increased and the executable file is reduced in size. Regn US\$37 for LIST PLUS and US\$99 for LIST ENHANCED. LHA is freeware.

Melb 2437 Meal Master v8.05

Meal Master is a sophisticated, easy to use recipe manager. It is ideal for people who want to keep a computerised version of their favourite recipes, or save bench storage space. It has excellent searching, indexing and printing features and it can produce a shopping list of ingredients for the recipes you wish to use. Recipes can be adapted to suit smaller or larger numbers of people. Meal Master supports English and Metric measures, including automatic conversion, and decimal or common fractions. It has an export/import option, including conversion for other popular recipe formats. A sample database has been provided for you to try. Sup-

port is provided for sight-impaired users with speech-synthesis equipment. This DOS program runs well in a Window under Windows 3.x/95/NT, or DesqView. Requires 512 KB of RAM. Regn US\$35.

Melb 2591

Dunce is the Dial-Up Networking Connection Enhancement utility. It provides much easier dial-up networking than Win95 currently provides. The program will automatically press "connect" for you on the "Connect To" dialog box, redial your Internet Service Provider indefinitely (even from within another application), and auto-reconnect if you get unexpectedly dropped. It can optionally run applications when you are connected and force connections at a given time. Dunce supports MSN and international versions of Windows. It can type in your password in the Connect To Dialog. Dunce does not replace the dialer, it merely interfaces with it. This version fixes some minor bugs. It requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 95 or later, 136 KB of RAM and 224 KB of hard disk space. You also need Dial-Up Networking and/or the Microsoft Network installed on your system. Dunce may be used freely for noncommercial purposes, otherwise registration is US\$20.

Melb 8001

FRACTINT plots and manipulates images of "objects"—actually, sets of mathematical points—that have fractal dimension. These sets of points are generated by relatively simple calculations repeated over and over, they are infinitely complex, and they can be astonishingly beautiful. The demonstration file included with the disk will show some of the features of FRACTINT. FRACTINT works with many adapters and graphics modes from CGA to the 1024 x 768, 256-colour XGA mode. Even "larger" images, up to 2048 x 2048 x 256, can be plotted to expanded memory, extended memory or disk. This bypasses the screen and enables you to create images with a higher resolution than your current display can handle. You can also run in the "background" under multitasking control programs such as DESQview and Windows 3. Some of the changes in this version of FRACTINT include major bug fixes and a large increase in the maximum size of an individual formula.

Melb 8074

WineBase for Windows v3.4

WineBase is a Windows-based Wine Cellar Database. It is intended as a tool for managing home wine cellars. It stores information on up to 1200 different wines (per file) and provides a graphical display on wine aging, cellar value and total stock. It is easy to add wines or edit existing stock. This version includes some bug fixes and adds the Shopping List flag as a database field. It also adds the ability to export listings in either a text file or a HTML file, adds a transaction button to show how

much has been purchased and consumed for each wine, and adds some better known but previously missing French winery details in the winery database. WineBase does not alter your WIN.INI file. It requires an 80386SX or later processor, Windows 3.x, 4 MB of free memory and 8 MB of hard disk space. VGA graphics (640x480) or better is required. Regn A\$40.

Melb 8092

Family Scrapbook v3.0

Family Scrapbook is a genealogical database system with many features to help you to keep track of your data as you trace your family tree. You can have multiple databases of up to 999,999 persons each with any number of events and sources per person. The program has context sensitive help, easy data entry, data modification, and record navigation. You can link PCX graphic files to your database, import/export data in GEDCOM format or use the advanced Tiny Tafel editor/matcher. There are many other features such as the built-in backup/restore and numerous charts and reports. This version corrects a number of minor bugs and provides extra features, such as easy record navigation and narrative reporting. FSB requires 384 KB of Base RAM, at least 3 MB of hard disk space, a colour monitor, DOS 3.3 or higher (or Windows 95), and an IBM, Epson, or HP compatible printer. Regn US\$50.

Melb 8150

Easy Word v10.3

Easy Word is an easy-to-use word processor which includes line drawing, a spelling checker, a table entry mode, macros, and an inbuilt backup system. It will batch print odd and even pages separately for double-sided printing. Easy Word has a secure erase facility for classified documents. This update corrects some minor bugs in the program. Easy Word requires a 16 MHz 80286 or faster processor, DOS 3.3 or later, 640 KB of RAM and 2 MB of hard disk space. Regn US\$40.

Melb 8179

KWIKSTAT v4.14

KWIKSTAT is a graphics oriented program for performing statistical data analysis on scientific and business data. It is recognised as one of the best, most professional and complete data analysis packages. It uses dBASE III and IV files, can import ASCII, comma delimited and 1-2-3 files and it has a Windows-like menu interface. KWIKSTAT contains data analysis procedures including descriptive statistics, t-tests, chi-square, analysis of variance with multiple comparisons, simple and multiple regression, graphs, spin plot, cross-tabulations, nonparametric procedures, survival analysis, life tables and more. It uses a "Windows-like" interface with mouse support and it can run in a DOS window using Windows 3.1. This version updates some of the functions and corrects some minor bugs. It requires 512 KB of RAM and about 1.2 MB of hard disk space. An EGA, VGA or higher resolution display is required. Regn is US\$99. This program is available on a single disk. Accordingly, disk Melb 8180 has been deleted.

Melb 8181-8182

Ralf Brown's Interrupt List Rel 53 (2-disk set)

An interrupt is a hardware signal that tells the CPU to temporarily stop what it is doing and do something else. This is a comprehensive listing of over 8300 functions available through interrupt calls on IBM PCs and compatibles. It includes both documented and undocumented functions as well as lists of I/O port, CMOS and memory locations, and far-call entry points. The disks include a number of conversion programs which can be used to create hypertext databases for a number of popular hypertext help systems such as Windows. This version provides additional help file converters and information on the Universal Serial Bus OpenHCI, PCI Power Management, FAT32 and the ATAPI Removable Media Device BIOS Specification. There is much information on DOS7/Win95 (including various VxD APIs) and the updated OPCODES.LST list now includes MMX instructions. Freeware.

Melb 8246 Melb 8458

SmartDraw v3.03 SmartDraw 95 v3.03

SmartDraw is an easy-to-use Windows program that enables anyone to draw great looking diagrams, flowcharts, flyers, posters, maps, invitations and other business graphics. SmartDraw provides drag and drop drawing, lines that automatically stay connected to shapes when they change size or position, text editing that automatically places text above, below or inside shapes, and shapes that grow to fit the text. A built-in library of professional-looking design styles and a large collection of built-in shape libraries and clip art are provided also. SmartDraw works with Microsoft Office, Lotus SmartSuite, WordPerfect and other programs that support OLE, so you can insert SmartDraw drawings directly into your documents without leaving your word processor or spreadsheet. Although SmartDraw is aimed at NON-graphics professionals, technical professionals will find it very useful for flowcharting and diagrams. Some of the many new features in this version include: print preview, one-step creation of common diagrams, new symbols and templates, new curved lines, user-defined zoom level and much faster library drawing. The 16- and 32-bit versions of SmartDraw share common file formats so libraries and drawings can be exchanged across both versions of the program. Both programs require an 80386 or better processor, VGA graphics and 1.5 MB of hard disk space. SmartDraw requires Windows 3.x or later and a minimum of 4 MB of free memory under Windows, while SmartDraw 95 requires Windows 95/NT and a minimum of 2 MB of free memory (under Windows 95). Regn US\$49 and provides 1500+ additional images and templates, more capacity, more features, a printed 120 page manual and technical support.

Melb 8287

Five Hundred v6.2 (for DOS) and v2.3 (for Windows)

500 is a popular card game for four players, with a myriad of local house rules, some of which are accommodated via the setup menu. Players 1, 2 and 3 are played by the computer—you can choose their speed and style of play. The object of the game is to collect 500 points and avoid collecting -500 points. Bidding rules and strategy can be set from the rules setup menu. Previous bids made, and the cards played, can be reviewed for study during a game. The voice synthesiser, which uses the standard PC speaker or a sound card (if detected), has been included for sight- or voice-af-

flicted players. 500 will use a mouse (if detected) and supports EGA/VGA displays. It can be run from a floppy disk or a hard disk. The Windows version is compatible with Windows 3.0 to Windows 95. It is similar to the DOS version but it has the benefits of playing through Windows. It supports different screen resolutions (speed and colours can be customised as never before) and all sound cards. Both versions play Closed and Open MISERE (or NULLO), and they can also accommodate different international bidding rules for wider appeal. Both versions require an 80286 or faster processor with EGA or VGA graphics. Regn A\$31 (DOS) and A\$33 (Windows).

Melb 8429

Drag And File for Windows 95/NT v3.51

Drag And File is a very powerful file manager for Windows 95 and NT 3.51. Besides the standard copy, move and delete functions, Drag And File enables you to perform these operations on multiple Drag And File windows in one operation. You can select directories in up to 12 Drag And File windows and just list the files in the selected directories. You can also list the files for an entire drive or combination of drives. From these listings you can also perform all standard file operations, as well as toggle on/off the display of duplicate files only. You can associate data files with more than one application. Drag And File also includes network support, a completely configurable toolbar, disk formatting and copying, file icons, file descriptions and a built-in DOS command line. In Windows 95, Drag And File has full access to the Win 95 shell. You can bring up context menus and drag and drop with the right mouse button and create shortcuts. This version has been rewritten to optimise speed and compatibility with Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. It no longer supports Windows NT 3.51. Requires an 80386 or better processor and Windows 95/NT (4.0). Regn US\$35.

Melb 8433

Integrity Master v3.11C

Integrity Master is a high performance (100% assembler) program offering virus scanning, data integrity, security, CMOS protection, and change management all in one easy to use package. It protects against much more than just viruses. Hardware glitches, software bugs, CMOS changes, even deliberate sabotage are detected. If a virus strikes, Integrity Master identifies it by name and (unlike other programs) also identifies any damage caused by the virus. Although it scans for known viruses, it will reliably detect new, unknown viruses so that you don't need to constantly upgrade. Integrity Master provides both a command line interface as well as easy-to-use menus with extensive online help. It provides a complete change history to aid problem resolution on all protected PCs. This is very valuable in a network environment since many problems can be solved by consulting the change log for the affected workstation. Integrity Master is the only antivirus product that will detect all files, sectors, or CMOS damaged but not infected by a virus. It works smoothly under IBM OS/2, Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and Windows NT. Some of the changes in this version include the ability to scan any size directory and support for the new FAT32 volumes available in Windows 95 OEM Service Release 2. Minimum requirements are DOS v2 or later and 256 KB of RAM. Regn is US\$50 and provides antivirus support for three years from the date you register your copy of Integrity Master.

Melb 8444 Sea Graphics Viewer v1.2C

The Sea Graphics Viewer is a VESA-compatible mouse controlled viewer, which enables you to view PNG, JPEG, TARGA, BMP & RLE, TIFF, PCX, GIF, PNM (PPM, PGM, PBM), LBM (IFF), WPG and Dp2e-LBM, BBM & PCC pictures. It is also possible to play FLI and FLC animations in full screen and in a thumbnail as well. Thumbnails are displayed as you select files, and these are shown in 256-colour or hi-colour mode. Many other features enable user-definable JPEG quality, slideshow, cataloging of images, auto-scale, auto resolution, the ability to set the video mode without quitting and then reloading the the program, and the ability to convert between all of the supported file formats. This update fixes a bug in the resolution detection routine and adds support for ICO files. It requires an 80386SX or faster processor, 2 MB of free RAM and a VESA compatible video card with 512 KB of RAM. An 80486-33 or faster processor with 4 MB of RAM, a mouse and a VESA compatible video card (with 1 MB of RAM) is recommended. Regn US\$24.

Melb 8534

Paradise Solitaire for Windows v1.13

Paradise Solitaire is a Windows-based solitaire card game containing thirty excellent solitaire games for Windows 3.1. It contains multiple decks, two card sizes, six backgrounds and sound card support. Other features include saved games, undo, and auto-play. The shareware games included are: Beleaguered Castle, Canfield, Clock, Dutchess, Four Seasons, Golf, Klondike, Montana, Pyramid and Spiderette. The remaining twenty games are provided upon registration. This version has corrections for some minor bugs. The disk contains two versions of Paradise Solitaire; one for Windows 3.X and one for Windows 95. Both versions require an 80386 (or better) processor, a colour VGA display, 8 MB of RAM and 2 MB of hard disk space. Regn US\$19 for each version.

Melb 8566

SnagIt Twin Pack Windows Screen Capture Utility v3.2

SnagIt Twin Pack is an easy-to-use Windows Screen Capture utility for Windows 3.X, Windows 95 and Windows NT. It captures your screen, window, scrolling window or region, to the printer, clipboard, or a variety of file formats, including PCX, JPG, TIF, GIF and BMP. It fully supports Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) and MAPI for easy integration into your applications. It also supports all Windows video modes and rastering printers. This version includes a preview window to enable captures to be viewed before sending the image to the output, a print preview feature and other changes. It requires Windows 3.1 or later, 640 KB of RAM, 500 KB of hard disk space and a mouse. Regn US\$40.

Melb 8636

Coeli Electric Planisphere v3.80

Coeli combines a practical ephemeris and planetarium with a realtime star chart. You can use it to view the heavens from any place or time with an advanced star and constellation search inside a point and click interface. Readouts include rise, set, transit times, apparent and absolute magnitudes, astronomical twilight, distance, coordinates, phase, and much more. COELI utilises Super VGA graphics via the VESA standard interface to generate highly realistic views of the heavens anywhere in the world. This version includes iconised images of most planets and DSOS as well as a Hale-Bopp tracker. A new zero dollar registration option (with nag screen removal and support) is available but your copy of Coeli will exclude most of the features

which distinguish the full registered package from the evaluation version. Coeli requires an 80386 or better processor with DOS 5, 640 KB of RAM, 1300 KB of hard disk space and a VESA-compatible SVGA graphics card with 512 KB of VRAM (1 MB is recommended). You will also require a separate VESA driver preinstalled (UniVBE v5+ recommended—available separately on Melb 8138). Regn US\$34 or 20.00 (GB pounds sterling)

Melb 8640 Financial Freedom Billing Manager v3.4C

Financial Freedom Billing Manager is a Windows billing program that supports multiple companies, three different invoice formats, unlimited customers and over 10 customisable reports. Financial Freedom has been designed for any type of business. This version provides the ability to use different fonts on your invoices and corrects some minor bugs. It requires an 80386 or later processor, Windows 3.1 or later, 2 MB of RAM, 1 MB of hard disk space, a mouse and a printer. Regn US\$50.

Melb 8652 Vistacalc for Windows v2.5

Vistacalc is a fast and powerful Excel-compatible spreadsheet program. Its user-friendly interface and ease-of-use make it equally suitable for the home and office. You can create a wide range of documents—everything from personalised budget plans to financial and accounting presentations. It is a full spreadsheet program with many features that are usually found only in major spreadsheet programs. Some of these features include the ability to handle multiple documents, in-cell editing, spell checking, charting, drag-and-drop, and a broad range of functions. This version provides charting, an autosum feature and the ability to reference other spreadsheets. Vistacalc requires Windows 3.1 or later and a mouse. Regn US\$20.

Melb 8676 Guitar Teacher for Windows 95 v3.20

Guitar Teacher for Windows 95 is a 32-bit application for studying, saving and printing guitar-chord diagrams. Each chord can be quickly selected and instantly displayed. The program supports Sound Blaster and other MIDI-compatible audio cards, with seven chord formulas (major, major 7, minor 7, 7, 7 suspended 4 and suspended 4), six alternatives for each chord, 504 chord diagrams in total, formula and voicing displayed, and right- or left-handed fingering. It includes a guitar tuner and has instructions on tuning and chord structure. This version corrects some minor bugs. It requires Windows 95 or later, a VGA or better video card and monitor, 2.5 MB of hard disk space and a mouse. A MIDI-compatible sound card is recommended but not required. Regn US\$25.

Melb 8680 Event Manager v1.5

Event Manager is a Windows 3.X, Windows 95 and Windows NT task scheduler. Its purpose is to enable your computer to perform tasks such as downloading files, or performing backups, while you're away or busy. You can schedule an unlimited number of events to be run on any day or date. Each event can have a command line parameter to specify options or to load a file. You can also have Event Manager send keystrokes to your programs to make them do anything you could do while sitting in front of them. Event manager is easy to use and it an "instant" help bar to explain all of the controls. This version provides event logging and new menu options. Event Manager requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, Windows 3.1 or later and a mouse. Regn US\$15.

Melb 8759 CD/Spectrum Pro v3.0

CD/Spectrum Pro is a 32-bit shareware CD-Audio Player with a Graphical Spectrum Analyzer for Windows 95 and NT 4.0. CD/Spectrum Pro has two independent parts: The CD-audio player and the spectrum analyzer. The CD-audio player has almost every feature you can find on any software CD player—programmed mode, intro mode, optional taskbar icon operation, auto-play, auto-exit, auto-eject, artist/track/title database, etc. It also recognises CDP files which can save you from typing in all of the track and title information for your CDs. The spectrum analyzer graphically depicts the frequency spectra of the CD music in real time. You may use either or both of the components without effect on the other. In other words, if you don't like the CD player, you can close it and use only the spectrum analyzer, or the other way around. This version of CD/Spectrum Pro was written to work in conjunction with The Psychedelic Screen Saver (from the same authors) to provide stunning visuals that "dance to the beat" of the music you play on the CD. CD/Spectrum Pro requires an 80486 or faster processor, Windows 95/NT 4.0 and a properly configured CD player and Sound Card. For exact real time graphics in the spectrum analyser, a Pentium processor is recommended. Regn US\$20.

Melb 8762 PC-Timeclock v1.3

PC-Timeclock is designed to track and report your computer usage by project and/or category. It can help you with client billing, and it can also save you money at tax time by reporting how much of your computer use was for business purposes. It is easy to use, and provides the information you need to document your business deduction for depreciation of your computer. This version includes a number of new features. PC-Timeclock requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 3.X/95/NT, 1 MB of RAM and 650 KB of hard disk space. Regn US\$18.

New disks

Melb 2599 Dazzle EGA/VGA Super- Kaleidoscope Image Generator v5.2

Dazzle produces superb kaleidoscopic images in both DOS and Windows! It is the 2D image engine subset from the full retail Razzle Dazzle ultimate DOS and Windows multimedia screen saver. This non-TSR program has many of the same images and menus as, but not the self-starting drivers of, the retail version (which is supplied when you register). Even though you can not use it as a screen saver there is much that you can do with it. It is rich in features and options. When you first run Dazzle let your mind relax and spend some time with it. What you are watching is unique. What you see on the screen will not be repeated exactly for many days of use. An on-disk user manual provides additional information about the program. Dazzle requires an 8086 processor, DOS 3.1, 250 KB of RAM, 190 KB of hard disk space and an EGA/VGA colour monitor. Regn US\$15.

Melb 2600 BusinessCards/32 v4.10 (for Win 95/NT)

BusinessCards/32 is a 32-bit universal free form database/organiser that is very intuitive and easy to use. You can use it to keep track of any type of textual information such as addresses, references, Internet sites, video or CD titles, short articles, descriptions of collection items, etc. It is the ultimate Windows Cardfile replacement. It has a friendly and convenient folio-like user interface with alphabetic tabs and flipping pages. BusinessCards/32 is

compact. Busy business travelers can keep both the program and data files on diskette and use them at a client's site. Since it directly reads and writes Windows Cardfile files, there should be few problems in converting an existing price or address database. The package contains BusinessDialer/32, which enables you to use your modem and dial phone numbers from inside BusinessCards/32. Requires an 80386 processor, Windows 95/NT, VGA graphics and 700 KB of hard disk space. Regn US\$30.

Melb 2601 HyperCam v1.12

HyperCam captures the action from your Windows 95 or NT screen and saves it to an AVI (Audio-Video Interleaved) movie file. Sound from your system microphone is also recorded. HyperCam can capture upto 10 frames per second of 640 x 480 pictures, in 8-bit colour mode (256 colours) on a Pentium 133. You may capture more if your capture area is smaller, or you have a faster machine. In 16-bit colour mode you can capture about 5 fps of 320 x 240 frames on the same machine. For 4-bit graphics Video does not provide a suitable compressor, so the frames are written uncompressed. This is also slow and produces large AVI files. HyperCam is perfect for demonstrations, presentations and tutorials. Regn US\$30.

Melb 8767 Easy Base Relational Database v1.1

Easy Base is a fully programmable relational database (RDBMS) that can be used to write almost any business application. It is also a complete rapid programming system for data management. In Easy Base you create the forms in which to store data in a simple screen painting environment. This not only designs the data file but provides a default entry screen for your data at the same time. As you place the "fields" in which data is to be stored, you can use relational links to import data from other forms. Each field you create for data storage is also treated as a derivable "cell" similar to a spreadsheet. You can make almost any calculation within fields. Apart from all the arithmetic and relational operators there are over fifty logic functions. Fields to be filled can be free, mandatory or conditionally mandatory. You can provide your own custom error messages when out of range data is entered. Field types include Text, Formatted Text, Text Blocks (providing word wrap and spell checking), Integer, Fixed and Floating Point Numbers, Date, Time and Fixed Choice. Your data can be sequenced, grouped and listed in many different ways. Programs can be distributed on runtime modules. A developer version contains everything for PC and Network (LAN) DBMS development. Easy Base requires an 80286 (16 MHz) or faster processor, DOS 3.3, 640 KB of RAM and 3 MB of hard disk space. Regn from US\$59 to US\$299.

Melb 8768 Financial Freedom Billing Manager Pro v1.20

Financial Freedom Billing Manager Pro is a 32-bit Accounts Receivable and Billing application. It is easy to use and is very suitable for small and large businesses alike. It features unlimited invoices, customers and products. It supports deposits, partial payments, custom invoices, interest charges, batch printing, deposits on account and much more. A form letter wizard assists you in the preparation of various form letters. It requires an 80486 processor, Windows 95/NT, 8 MB of RAM and 1.5 MB of hard disk space. Regn US\$70.

Melb 8769**Universal Mortgage and Loans v1.49**

This is a Windows-based, comprehensive personal mortgage program that provides calculations, projections and graphs for mortgages of every type and frequency of payment: weekly, weekly accelerated, biweekly, biweekly accelerated, monthly, semimonthly and additional payments, for car loans, personal loans and consumer loans. You can compare up to 12 different payments schedules at once to determine which is best for your needs and perhaps save you tens of thousands of dollars in interest payment over the life of your mortgage. The interest rate can be input to 3 decimal places. The program has excellent online help and it is both easy to use and easy to understand. It requires Windows 3.1 or later. Regn US\$15.

Melb 8770**GeoBoy v1.2**

GeoBoy is a Microsoft Windows 95/NT utility which traces an Internet route, generating host locations, and then plots these locations onto a map of the Earth (Mercator projection). You can manipulate the map by zooming and/or rotating it. Traces may be loaded or saved. It is useful for finding out all of the servers that you go through to get to a particular site. GeoBoy requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 4 MB of RAM and a connection to the Internet (via a modem or ISDN line).

Melb 8771**CurveExpert v1.33**

CurveExpert is a comprehensive curve fitting system for Windows. XY data can be modeled using a toolbox of linear regression models, nonlinear regression models, interpolation, or splines. Over 30 models are built-in, but custom regression models may also be defined by the user. The fully featured graphing capability allows thorough examination of the curve fit. The process of finding the best fit can be automated by letting CurveExpert compare your data to each model to choose the best curve. This program was designed to be simple but powerful, so that all users can obtain a model for their data quickly and easily. Documentation is provided in the form of a Windows help file. This 16-bit version of CurveExpert is Windows 95 compatible. It will run on any computer supporting Windows, although a fast 486 or Pentium-based computer is strongly recommended. Plots can be printed on any printer supported by Windows. Regn US\$35.

Melb 8772**Space Puzzles (NASA Images) v1.3**

This is an out-of-this-world Windows puzzle game. It uses stunning images from NASA, literally from around the world! It is extremely flexible. You can choose any number of pieces from 4 to 2000. There is a Hall of fame for your best scores and you can save puzzles before completion. Other features of Space Puzzles include solution hints, music, sound effects and a simple mouse interface. It supports any Windows graphics mode, adapting as you switch displays. It requires an 80386 processor, Windows 3.1 or later, 500 KB of RAM and 500 KB of hard disk space. Regn US\$20.

Melb 8773 Household Contents v2.1

Household Contents is a home inventory database that keeps track of your personal possessions, and maintains up-to-date information about what they are worth, for insurance purposes. However it can also be used to catalog anything that you value—collectables of any kind. The estimated values of individual items, and the costs of replacing them, are automatically updated to take into account the

effects of depreciation and inflation. These are calculated using your own assumptions for the annual percentage rates of change in value and replacement cost for each item. You can choose any number of categories for classifying your possessions, and any number of locations where they are to be found. Records can be sorted and filtered in a number of ways for screen display or for printing. A sample database has been provided to show the features of the program. Household Contents requires Windows 3.1x (or later), a VGA monitor and a printer that can print graphics under Windows. A laser, inkjet or bubblejet printer is preferred. Regn A\$30.

Melb 8774-8775**MagTrack v1.1 (2-disk set)**

MagTrack provides an efficient way to track information about your favorite magazine articles, stories, and blurbs. Have you ever read an interesting article, needed it 3 months later, and discovered that you must sort through a stack of magazines to find it? With the help of MagTrack you can easily store key information about your favorite stories, articles, and periodical tidbits, categorise articles as you see fit, and use the search facility to quickly find those articles when you need them most. You can search by magazine, category, keyword, or a combination of all three. You can even print a hardcopy listing of your articles or selected sets of articles. MagTrack runs on Windows 3.1 and Windows 95. It requires an 80486 processor, 8 MB of RAM and 900 KB of hard disk space. Regn US\$25.

Melb 8776**WinSpeech v3.0N (for Win 95/NT)**

WinSpeech is a text-to-speech reader for use with Windows 95/NT. It reads text and produces speech to a sound card or the PC speaker. It can operate in several modes. The file mode reads TXT or WRI files. Clipboard mode provides speaking whenever the contents change and can be used as a speech add-on utility for other Windows applications. A DDE mode makes WinSpeech into a speech engine for other programs to render text via DDE. There is a separate dictionary editor. You can load different dictionaries and voice data sets and you can change the speaking speed and voice pitch. Audio guidance is given throughout the program. This program does not run on Windows 3.1x. It requires Windows 95 or Windows NT (3.x or 4.0), 3 MB of hard disk space and a mouse. A sound card is recommended for Windows 95 and is mandatory for Windows NT.

Melb 8777**Any Speed v1.1**

Any Speed helps you to define the data transfer speed in a network. With this program you can measure the real transfer speed between your Internet provider and your computer and define the time when the Internet's speed is highest. Any Speed can also measure the speed of a local network or a CD-ROM drive, and shows the results in a graph. Any Speed puts the results in the trend file and can build a trend chart of any day. It requires an 80386 or

faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, 2 MB of hard disk space, a VGA or better video card and monitor, and Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0. Regn US\$9.

Melb 8778 Financial Freedom Cards and Labels v2.10

Cards and Labels is a Windows application for printing business cards and labels. It features a drag and drop interface and it can use all of your existing fonts and bitmap images. The program also includes a database engine to connect to any dbase-compatible file or you can create your own! You can place text, pictures, lines and rectangles anywhere on your layout and then print in colour or black and white. Requires an 80386 processor with Windows 3.1 or later, 2 MB of RAM and 900 KB of hard disk space. Regn US\$30.

Melb 8779**Multimedia Greeting Card Maker v2.00**

Multimedia Greeting Card Maker enables you to create multimedia cards for all occasions. It comes with three sets of music, voice, and graphic files to create three different Christmas cards. The registered version includes six more sets of, music, voice, and graphic files to create a total of nine different card designs. You can load photographs and voice files of yourself and your family into your cards and make them something worth keeping. A sample card has been included to show you what can be done with the program. Requires an 80486 processor, Windows 3.x, VGA graphics, a sound card with a MIDI interface and 3 MB of hard disk space. Regn US\$25.

Melb 8780**Weddings, Showers and Invitations v1.00**

This disk contains 25 hand drawn, full colour PCX clip art images and two TrueType fonts for invitations. The set includes bachelor parties, baby showers, romance, weddings and more. Registration provides the complete set of 10 fonts and 170 nonwatermarked images at a higher resolution of about 750 x 750 (instead of 500 x 500). Requires an 80286 or better processor with Windows 3.x or later and 800 KB of hard disk space. Regn US\$30.

Melb 8781**Wizkid Painter**

WizKid Painter is an engaging art program for children aged from 6 years. Activities inside enable you to play Connect-the-Dots, make greeting cards. It also enables you to change paintings into jigsaw puzzles. The program is also a fully featured painting program for children. WizKid Painter requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM and a mouse. Regn US\$25. □

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Maybe a mailing list will be just right

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Carol Daniels



Once upon a time, publishing meant using lead type and a printing press to deposit ink on to paper. Full stop.

Today publishing encompass all that old fashioned paper stuff and the entire subdiscipline lumped together under the umbrella term of "electronic publishing." We all know about disk and

CD-ROM publishing. Unless you've been in a cave for the past year or so, you've also heard about the World Wide Web. But you may not have heard about mailing lists. If you haven't you should take a few minutes to find out about them, whether you're a producer or consumer of electronically distributed information.

List lingo

- **List owner** (sometimes called the list maintainer)—The person who manages the list. Often, but not always the list's founder. Lists can outlast the founder's interest.
- **List administrative address** (sometimes called list subscribe address)—The address to which you send subscribe/unsubscribe information. This is usually different from the address to which you send messages.
- **List address** (sometimes called list message address)—The address to which you send messages. If you send a subscribe or unsubscribe message to this list, it is sent to each member of the list or rejected if it's an announce list (see below) but it will rarely result in you being subscribed or unsubscribed to the list. There are exceptions, such as mailing lists run using e-mail software, such as Pegasus.
- **Subscribers**—The people who receive messages from a list
- **Automated list servers**—Programs that manage routine list housekeeping tasks, such as subscribing and unsubscribing, distribution of list messages, etc. This is the generic term for such programs, while "listserv" is a specific, proprietary program for managing mailing lists. These terms are not interchangeable.
- **List server manager**—The person (usually employed by, or associated with, the ISP) who works with list owners to ensure the smooth operation of the list.
- **Subscribing/unsubscribing**—Getting your e-mail address on to/off

a mailing list. This will usually require a precisely formatted message to the list's administrative address.

Frustrations with the process are often due to operator error (an improperly formatted message, a sig in the body of your message, sending the unsubscribe message from an e-mail address other than the one you subscribed from, or the classic, sending your message to the wrong address (the list address not the list's administrative address).

- **Welcome message**—Usually generated by the automated list software, after receiving your subscription request. The message confirms your subscription. It may also contain the list's charter, rules of conduct, instructions for getting the list's FAQ and other automatic responses if available. Save this message until you have left the list.
- **Digest mode**—In digest mode, the automated list server doesn't send messages as they are received, but holds them until a certain number or volume has accumulated. It then sends the messages in a single file. Not all automated list server programs accommodate digest mode. From those that do, you will probably have the option to select either Digest or Reflection mode (see Reflection mode below). Digest mode is especially useful for very busy lists and/or very busy people.
- **Reflection mode**—When a list member sends a message to the list, it is copied and sent to each member immediately. (Compare to digest mode, above.) □

What's a mailing list?

Mailing lists have been around for a long time, longer certainly than the Web. Informally, mailing lists probably go back to the early days of e-mail, when someone first decided to send a regular e-mail message to a number of people at the same time. At its most simplistic, that's what a mailing list is, a mechanism for distributing messages to a defined group of people.

Don't let the history of mailing lists and the fact that they predate the Web, turn you off. Mailing lists aren't old fashioned, quite the contrary. A mailing list is an excellent and easy-to-understand example of the latest Internet buzz, "push" technology.

That's one of the advantages of mailing lists, they come to you, just like a news-

The natural life cycle of mailing lists

This was first posted on the EARLYM-L mailing list in December 1994, after an uproar about uncouth limericks that followed a particularly virulent episode in The Wobble Wars (a loong running argument about performance practice in renaissance music.) Reprinted with permission of Kat Nagel.

It is the best description of the social development of a mailing list I've read.

Every list seems to go through the same cycle

1. **Initial enthusiasm** (people introduce themselves, and gush a lot about how wonderful it is to find kindred souls.)
2. **Evangelism** (people moan about how few folks are posting to the list, and brainstorm recruitment strategies.)
3. **Growth** (more and more people join, more and more lengthy threads develop, occasional off-topic threads pop up.)
4. **Community** (lots of threads, some more relevant than others; lots of information and advice is exchanged; experts help other experts as well as less experienced colleagues; friendships develop; people tease each other; newcomers are welcomed with generosity and patience; everyone—newbie and expert alike—feels comfortable asking questions, suggesting answers, and sharing opinions.)

paper or magazine does. Another advantage is the controlled nature of lists. They are rarely as chaotic as newsgroups nor as static as most Web pages. That's why a mailing list may be the "just right" choice in your quest for better information or an audience for your message.

There are mailing lists that focus on just about any subject you can imagine, and probably some you can't. I'm not going to cover list subjects in this article, there are Web sites where you can search for lists, catalogues, and directories of lists, by subject and title.

For example

- **Liszt** <http://www.liszt.com/> is a directory of e-mail discussion lists, with more than 70,000 entries.
- **CataList** <http://www.lsoft.com/lists/listref.html> is a catalogue of lists using "listserv." It includes about 11,000 different mailing lists.
- **E-mail zines list** <http://propagandist.com/tkemz/index.html> is a collection of around 200 magazines distributed via e-mail.

There are other spots with large collections (and most, including those listed above will include many outdated addresses). I'll leave it to you to find the ones that best suit your needs.

Discomfort with diversity (the number of messages increases dramatically; not every thread is fascinating to every reader; people start complaining about the signal-to-noise ratio; person one threatens to quit if other people don't limit discussion to person one's pet topic; person two agrees with person one; person three tells one 1 & two to lighten up; more bandwidth is wasted complaining about off-topic threads than is used for the threads themselves; everyone gets annoyed.)

inally:

Smug complacency and stagnation (the purists flame everyone who asks an "old" question or responds with humor to a serious post; newbies are rebuffed; traffic drops to a doze-producing level of a few minor issues; all interesting discussions happen by private e-mail and are limited to a few participants; the purists spend lots of time self-righteously congratulating each other on keeping off-topic threads off the list.)

aturity (a few people quit in a huff; the rest of the participants stay near stage four, with stage five popping up briefly every few weeks; many people wear out their second or third Delete key, but the list lives contentedly ever after.) □

More list basics

There are two main types of lists, announce and discuss. An announce list is a one-way list. The owner sends messages to subscribers. Subscribers can write to the owner, but not to the list. Announce lists aren't just about announcements, they can be newsletters or zines (containing the work of single or multiple authors.)

A discuss list is a two way list. Messages sent to the list are distributed to every subscriber, with the expectation

So you want to start a list

Before you start your list, make sure it's not already covered by another list. There's no law that says you can't duplicate someone else's efforts, but why would you want to. Unless you provide an alternative point of view you are unlikely to attract subscribers.

Next decide which combination of options, announce/discuss, moderated/unmoderated, open/closed, etc, as described in the main article, best suits your objectives.

Then review the capabilities of the major automated list server programs, to find the one that will serve your needs. Different programs support different options, or support them better than others. Things to consider include, availability of digest option, security options, ease of importing subscriber information from another file or file format, support for auto responder, ease of backup, and overall ease of operation.

Find an ISP to host your list. Not all ISPs host lists, for good reason. Lists can be difficult and troublesome to manage, and high volume lists can require a great deal of management. This reluctance has provided the opportunity for other ISPs to carve out a niche market, serving lists exclusively. Start looking at <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/spider/edmonds/usenet/ml-providers.txt>. Search with your preferred list software in mind because ISPs generally handle a single type of list software. Other restrictions the ISP may place on your list include

- the size (number of subscribers) or volume (message load)
- The level of support the ISP can provide (compared to your expected needs).

As your list server software and ISP selected, it's time to settle on a name for your list (don't get too creative, the server software will restrict your choices) and write a charter. Your charter should include, at a minimum

- The purpose or topic of the list
- A description of the list (announce/discuss, open/closed, etc.)

mailing lists focus

on just about any

subject imaginable

- Some rules of conduct (if it's a discussion list)
 - Frequency (be flexible when you're first starting out)
 - Requirements for participants (if a closed list)
 - List owner's contact information
 - Cost of subscription, if relevant.
- When you add the subscribe/unsubscribe instructions, and few words of welcome to the list above, you have your welcome message and you're almost ready to go.

Once you have all those details ironed out and you've set up the list with a list hosting site, it's time to start promoting. When you do, keep the general Internet and specific mail list etiquette in mind as you do.

Announce your group in appropriate places, for starters the *comp.internet.net-happenings* newsgroup. Register your list with the specialist list sites, such as those listed in the main article. Add a single line with your list name and subscribe information to your sig (avoiding any suggestion of commercialism if you want to avoid being flamed). Subscribe to listserv@vml.nodak.edu, a list that focuses on the art of promoting and publicising lists, and subscribe to the comp.mail.list.admn.policy newsgroup so you can follow policy developments.

Some final flourishes

Post the subscribe/unsubscribe information to your list regularly or include it in an automatic footer added to every message sent to the list. It won't eliminate "unsubscribe" messages sent to the list, but it should reduce them.

As your list develops start compiling answers to frequently asked questions. It makes the process of developing a list FAQ much easier. When your FAQ has some substance to it, start posting that to the list too. If you can, add the FAQ to the welcome message or set up an auto responder to send the FAQ when requested using your special mailing list program commands. □

that subscribers will "discuss" the topic within the list. Subscribers to a discuss list must be aware of the default reply setting for the list. It can be to the list, or to the author.

If the default is to the list (and many are), the "To" field in your reply will be the list address. If you want to reply to the author only, you must edit the "To" field. If you don't your reply will be sent to subscriber.

If the default is to the author, the "To" field will be the author. If you want to send your reply to the whole list, you will have to edit the "To" field.

It's up to you to ensure that the messages you send to the list that are useful or of interest to the entire (or at least the majority) of participants.

Variations on a theme

A discussion list can be moderated or unmoderated. The moderator is often, but not always, the list owner. On a moderated list messages are reviewed by the moderator before the messages are sent to subscribers. The moderator's focus usually is to ensure that discussion is on topic and to reject spam before it gets to subscribers. But on some lists, the moderator controls the tone or scope of discussion, and yes, that is censorship. You don't have to like it, but the list owner makes and enforces—or appoints someone to enforce—any list rules of conduct.

Study the rules of conduct for a moderated list carefully. It's easy to be kicked off a moderated list and you are unlikely to have any recourse if you feel your treatment is unwarranted.

Don't confuse an unmoderated lists with a free-for-all. All lists have rules of conduct, there just may be fewer on an unmoderated list. But you can still be removed from a list, without recourse, if the owner decides that you are not a good list citizen.

More variations on a theme

Lists can be open or closed (not to be confused with announce vs discussion). An open list is one that can be subscribed to by any one with an e-mail address. All it takes is a properly formatted subscribe message and the list messages will start flowing.

Only those people who meet some pre-requisite(s) can join a closed list. For example some lists are only open to librarians, others are only open to physicians, or university staff or members of an organisation.

With an open list, you will most likely be subscribed automatically. For a closed list, you usually need to provide some substantiation that you meet the list's requirements. You won't get messages until that information is verified.

That's a brief summary of mailing lists, and how they work. See "So you want to start a list" for special information list owners need to know before they start, and "Finding a list and staying on it" for more detailed information about participating in mailing lists. □

Finding a list and staying on it

Use one of the search sites listed to find lists that suit your interests. If you're really keen, read the newsgroup, *news.answ@ers* regularly, and watch for the regular posting of Publicly Accessible Mailing Lists. Be warned though. The last time I captured the full set, it was posted in 19 parts. That was in mid-1996, so who knows how many parts it may require now.

Individual entries in those lists and in searchable catalogues and directories usually include a short description of the list, requirements for joining and subscription instructions. Unfortunately not all list owners are as good about providing complete details as they should be. Sometimes you'll only find the list name, and administrative address. If you're set on subscribing to one of those lists, you may have to do some detective work.

Most list server programs are very unforgiving and will respond with an error message. If you're lucky the error message may also include the subscribe/unsubscribe instructions. If not, here's the general form for some of the commonly used list server programs:

For **majordomo** send a message to the subscription address with
subscribe listname
in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank.)

For **listserv** send a message to the subscription address with
subscribe listname
yourfirstname yourlastname
in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank.)

For **listproc** send a message to the subscription address with
subscribe listname
yourfirstname yourlastname
in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank.)

Note, the message should be entered without quotation marks, with the name of the list substituted for *listname* and your first name and last name substituted for *yourfirstname* and *yourlastname* respectively.

Don't wear out your welcome

When you get the welcome message, read it and save it. You'll need it if/when you need to unsubscribe. Believe me, you won't remember it, and you won't want to go hunting for it again. If you receive administrative updates, save those too. They may include new administrative list address, or new rules of conduct, information you

will need in the future.

Before you jump in and make a fool of yourself, observe the list for a while. Try to get a feel for the list's culture. When you're ready to make your first posting, be sure you understand the list's default reply settings. (Covered in detail in the main article.)

For your first message, consider sending an introductory message, to give other subscribers an idea about who you are and what you are like. Most lists develop a culture and sense of community, if you respect those you are likely to be welcome wherever you go.

Stay on topic, leave chatting to private e-mail.

Unsubscribe if you are going on holiday. Or "suspend" your subscription for the duration, if your list provides this option. If you don't and your mail box overflows, bounced messages will make you very unpopular, very quickly. And never set one of those auto responders that reply to every message sent to you with a message that you are offline for "x" amount of time and won't be able to answer messages. That can start a list crippling cascade of messages. You will most certainly be unsubscribed, possibly banned from the list forever.

Some more don'ts

- Don't send HTML formatted messages to the list. It's a waste of bandwidth and your fellow subscribers will most likely flame you for it, if the list owner doesn't kick you off first.
- Don't imagine it's funny to subscribe someone else to a mailing list to watch their angry response and don't post spam to a list. No one thinks this sort of prank is funny, because they aren't. They may be cause for termination of your service agreement by your ISP.
- Don't send a response to every message and avoid sending a "me too" or "I agree" messages. There is an expectation that messages will add to the overall discussion. When you do respond trim as much from the message you are replying to as you can, while retaining enough information to identify the author and subject of the message, and the specific element of the message you are responding to, as appropriate.
- Don't hog centre stage.
- Don't appoint yourself defacto moderator, when another list member does or writes something you don't like. Consider the list rules of conduct and respond appropriately.

Do participate and do enjoy yourself. □

Life Science Mysteries: Beyond the Naked Eye

CD-ROM REVIEW

Corel's interactive *Life Science Mysteries* make learning fun. The latest title in the series, *Beyond the Naked Eye*, teaches about viruses and bacteria. It's your job to assist the staff of the Institute for Disease Research, and you have two assignments:

- The AIDS Awareness Project, where you create a multimedia presentation about AIDS and youth. As you gather material for your presentation, you learn facts and misconceptions about HIV and AIDS, discuss prevention measures, see what the virus looks like, and examine the social stigma of AIDS.
- The Jungle Epidemic, where you identify the cause of an epidemic in the Maharii Jungle. Along the way, you review patients' symptoms, analyse blood samples, and culture and identify bacteria.

Info Box

Life Science Mysteries: Beyond the Naked Eye

Minimum system requirements

- 486DX-33 processor
- 8 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1
- 256-colour display
- Sound Blaster or 100% compatible sound card
- Mouse
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- 4 MB free hard disk space.

Availability and cost

Available from most Corel retailers. Contact Corel Customer Service Centre on 1800 658 850.

RRP: \$79

Your research takes you into different rooms of the institute, where you can click on objects and review audio-visual materials. Staff are available to advise you, and you can use microscopes, a fax machine, telephone and video-conference system. If you need more assistance, you can obtain hints from an intercom and use an online hyperlinked textbook, the Learn Zone, which contains six short lessons:

- Science and Technology: Observations and Inferences
 - The Scientific Method
 - Characteristics and Types of Viruses
 - Viral Reproduction and Diseases
 - Classification, Structure and Life Functions of Bacteria
 - Bacterial Reproduction and Effects of Bacteria on Humans
- The information in the Learn Zone is brief, relevant and to-the-point. A variety of games, animations and self-tests help to reinforce the material.

Depending on your age and capabilities, completing each project takes anything from an hour or so upwards. If your final conclusions are correct, you are thanked and congratulated; otherwise you are urged to review your work. Once you've completed the assignments, you can continue to explore the Institute and browse the Learn Zone. The only problem I encountered was an occasional inability to alter my findings—when this happened, I had to redo the assignment.

Aimed at ages nine to sixteen, *Beyond the Naked Eye* is a terrific learning tool. The material is easy to read and presented in an interesting way. You can learn at your own pace and there is continual reinforcement for what you've learnt. Most importantly, *The Naked Eye* is fun! It will be a much-used resource for schools and libraries.

Bernadette Houghton

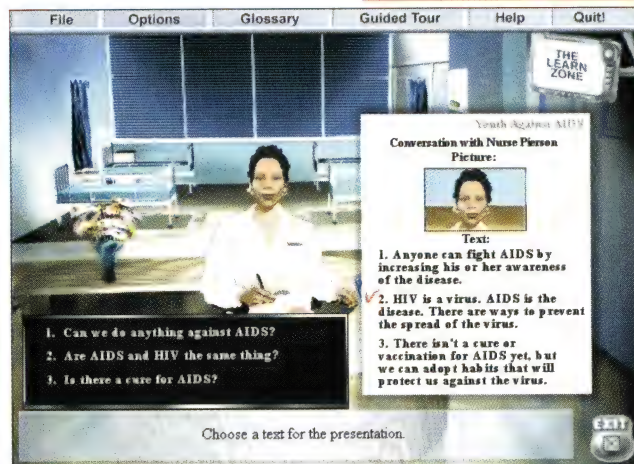


Figure 1. Discussing AIDS with a nurse.

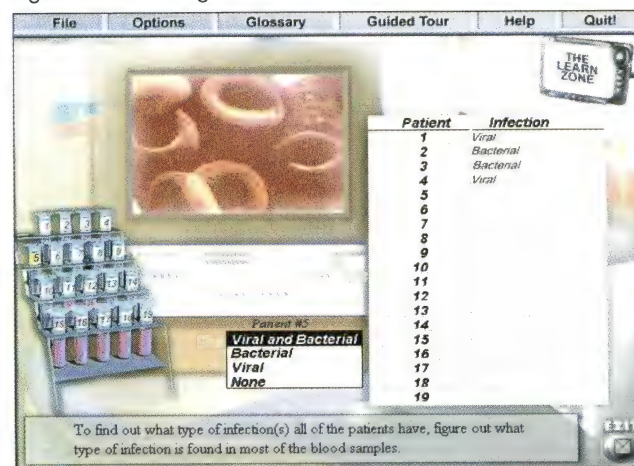


Figure 2. Analysing blood samples.

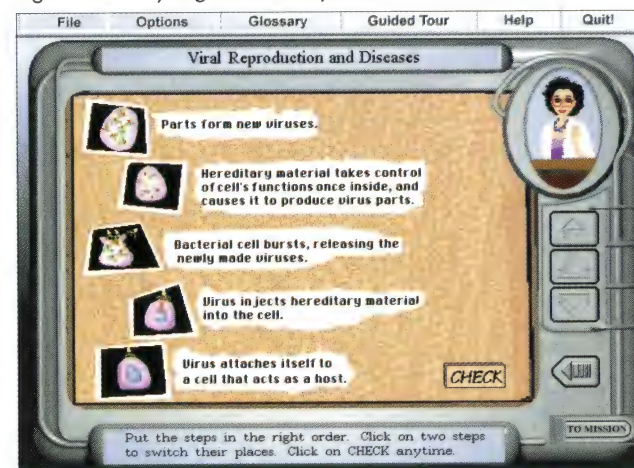


Figure 3. The Learn Zone.

Small Business Graphics and Print Studio

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



**plenty of
tutorials to
guide you**

Small Business Graphics and Print Studio is an excellent value package that helps you produce professional-looking business and promotional material.

The two-CD package contains:

- Windows Draw 5
 - Picture Publisher 6
 - Instant 3D
 - ABC Media Manager
 - ABC QuickSilver
- as well as a collection of 20,000 clip art

and photo images, 100 sample logos, 250 TrueType fonts and numerous templates.

Windows Draw

I've been enamoured of Windows Draw since its fledgling days. It's easy to use, with an intuitive interface and is powerful enough to do everything I require. It's not a heavyweight like CorelDraw! and can't replace a high-end drawing program, but it definitely has more grunt and flexibility than many other drawing programs I've encountered.

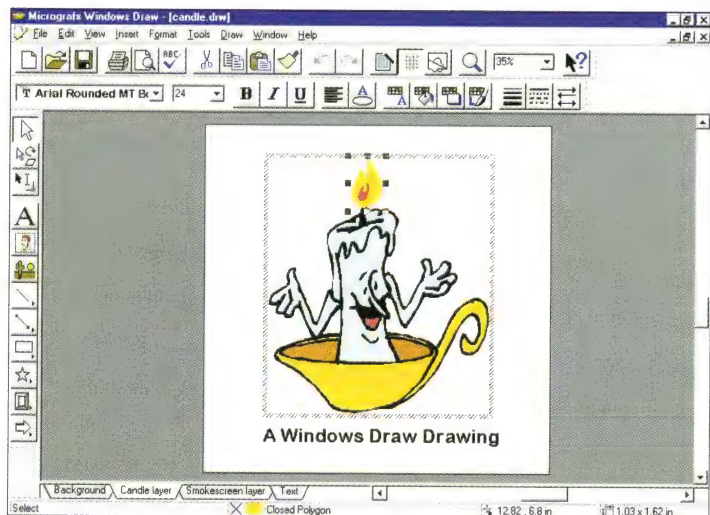


Figure 1. Windows Draw main screen.

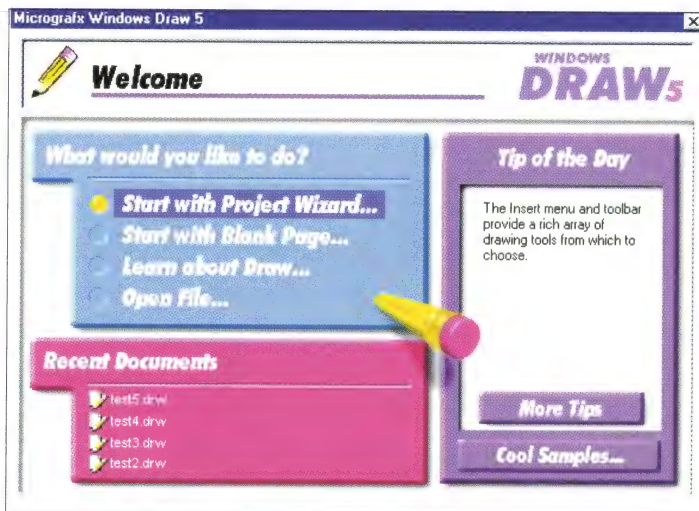


Figure 2. Draw Project Wizard.

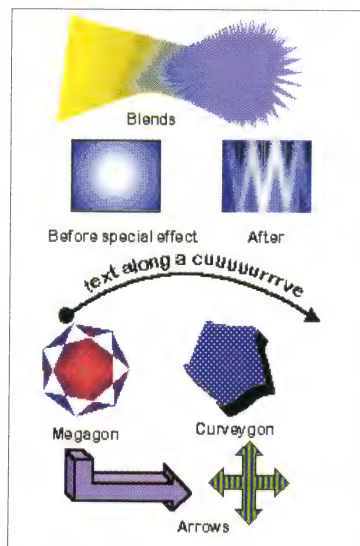


Figure 3. Sample Draw effects.

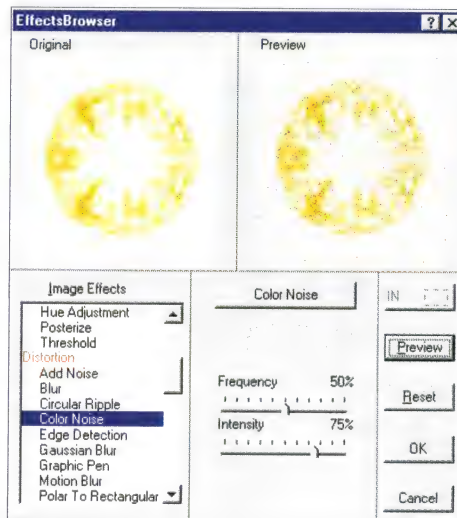


Figure 4. EffectsBrowser, common to Draw and Picture Publisher.

Info Box

Small Business Graphics and Print Studio

Minimum system requirements

- 486DX-33 processor
- Windows 95 or NT 3.51
- 8 MB RAM (12 MB recommended)
- CD-ROM drive
- 45 MB free hard disk space (65 MB recommended)
- VGA with 256 colours
- Mouse

Availability and Cost

Contact Micrografx, Ph: (02) 9415 2642, Fax (02) 9415 2641, if your local retailer doesn't stock it. RRP \$95. Current users of Windows Draw can upgrade for \$75 by calling 1 800 805 337.

The latest version of Draw has some nice features (Figure 1). One of the most useful is the Project Wizard which takes you step by step through the process of creating flyers, cards, letterheads and the like (Figure 2). Just answer the questions and the Wizard does the rest. The templates used by the Wizard are of sometimes dubious quality, but they do give you a starting point for your own designs. A handy feature from previous versions is a collection of PaperDirect templates so you can see how your finished design will look on preprinted paper.

There are two new CoolShapes, megagons and curveygons (Figure 3). For the uninitiated, CoolShapes are complex shapes such as stars and cylinders that are drawn in staged clicks and drags. There are new border and arrow tools, a useful—although rudimentary—mail merge function, and you can now join or slice objects to create new shapes. The EffectsBrowser—common to Picture Publisher—enables you to select, customise and preview 50 special effects, including distortion, watercolour, posterisation and so on (Figure 4). Applying a special effect automatically converts the selected object to a bitmap, which you can edit in-place using Picture Publisher toolbars and menus.

Draw still has all its old reliable

features—all the standard drawing tools, connector lines (dynamic lines that move along with their connecting objects), Bezier curve editing, layer management, and so on. Draw is not difficult to learn, but there is a very useful online tutorial that introduces the basics.

With earlier versions of Draw, I found it hard to discern Bezier control points from the background, and this problem has been addressed. I'm still waiting for colour separation support and a nudge feature, though!

Picture Publisher 6

Picture Publisher is a powerful, highly customisable, image editing program, with tons of features (Figure 5). I found it very easy to use, although I admit that I'm happily familiar with its little sister, Photo Magic, and may be slightly biased in its favour.

The masking tools are flexible and give good control over your working area. Apart from the regular hand masking tools, you can mask areas according to colour and manipulate masks in versatile ways such as Bezier curve editing, inverting, feathering, smoothing and removing holes.

There is a large range of image enhancement and manipulation tools, including lighten/darken, smooth/sharpen, airbrushing, cloning, stitching

and so on. Tools are fully customisable, including options such as brush size, feathering, transparency and merge mode. The ScratchPad lets you try out effects before applying them to the main image, and you can customise the Undo feature to suit yourself. Special effects are available with the EffectsBrowser, and you can also utilise third-party plug-ins.

Picture Publisher helps you calibrate your monitor, printer and scanner to ensure colours are true and consistent along the production chain. There is a range of proofing options, including colour separations, halftones and a variety of printers marks. Kodak Colour Management System and RGB, CYMK and HSL colour models are supported and you can create custom colour palettes and modify colour maps, choosing to edit channels individually or collectively. Colour controls include contrast/brightness, colour balance, tone balance, hue map, hue shift and threshold (among others), and you can preview all effects before applying them (Figure 6).

Picture Publisher places heavy demands on system resources, but you can speed things up by using Low Resolution mode or opening only part of a file. Another useful feature is the Task Manager which enables you to adjust processing priorities by suspending tasks in progress and resuming them as needed.

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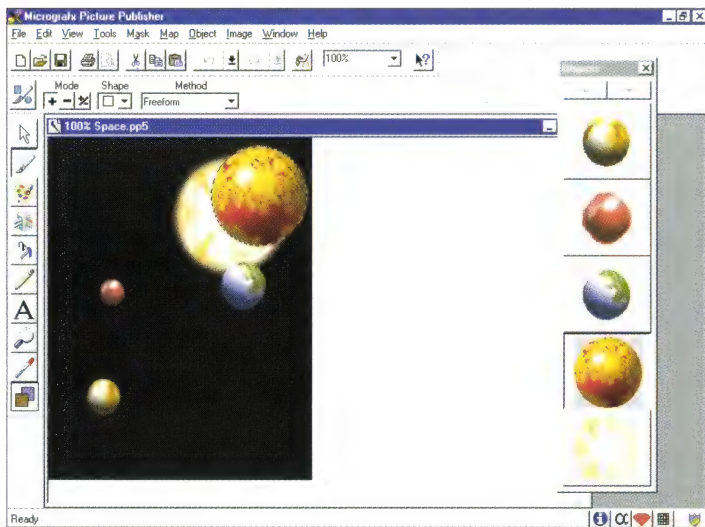


Figure 5. Picture Publisher main screen.

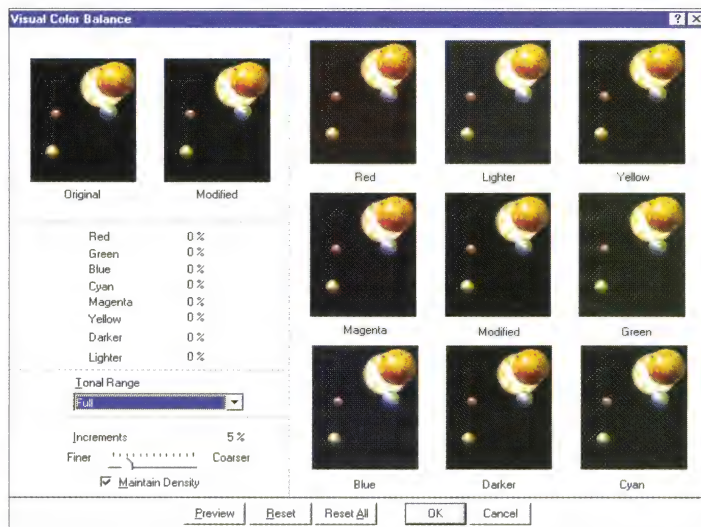


Figure 6. Picture Publisher Visual Colour Balance dialog.

Instant 3D

Instant 3D helps you create 3D scenes quickly and easily (Figure 7). You build up a scene by dragging objects, materials, backdrops and lights into the project window, then adding shadows and rotating and sizing objects.

The package includes a large range of 3D clipart; alternatively, you can import 3D objects from DXF (Autocad) or GED (Visual 3D Geometry) formats. A simple wizard helps you create 3D text. You can extrude, bevel and deform text, or make it follow a path.

The ease with which you can manipulate and render a scene depends upon the power of your machine. I found it frustrating to perform rotations and sizing on my 486DX2-66 with 32 MB RAM, since the screen took a while to display the effect of each mouse movement.

Apart from the clipart, Instant 3D comes with 200 materials and 27 lighting effects. It isn't particularly feature-full or flexible, but it is easy to learn and helps you achieve some eye-catching 3D effects. There is an excellent tutorial in the online help.

Do a friend a favour

Stuck for a gift idea?

Give a Melb PC membership, your friend can benefit from all our services—SIGS, meetings, training, *PC Update*, bulk buys, Dial Help—and more...

ABC Media Manager

ABC Media Manager organises your graphic files by collection and subject, and remembers their location (Figure 8). It doesn't quite have the intelligence to tell you whereabouts you put a particular CD, though! A search facility makes it easy to retrieve images by keyword, file name or file number, although it is only as powerful as the quality of your indexing. When you need an image, you drag and drop or copy and paste it into your document.

Media Manager has had a minor cosmetic change or two, and the latest version resolves an earlier problem that embedded graphic files into the collection files. It still has a fairly high initial learning curve, a fairly obscure menu and command structure, and lacks a printing option—but it does its job once you've learnt its idiosyncrasies.

ABC QuickSilver

ABC QuickSilver enables you to place, view and edit Draw vector graphic files inside Web pages. Since vector graphics display much faster than bitmaps, the advantages in

using these on your Web pages are obvious. Running as a plug-in to Netscape Navigator or as ActiveX controls for Microsoft Internet Explorer, QuickSilver also enables you to save graphics in JPEG, GIF and interlaced GIF formats and display WMF and EMF files.

Assessment

The 500-page manual includes 150 pages of introductory material and tutorials, with the balance being monochrome thumbnails of the clipart (oddly, the logos aren't included). The main applications also include easy-to-follow online tutorials which give a good introduction to the principal features.

If you haven't already guessed, I'm impressed with Small Business Graphics and Print Studio. The price is good, the applications are powerful yet mostly easy to use, and there are plenty of tutorials to guide you through the learning process. You'll need some artistic ability and flair if you want to create professional designs from scratch, but even without this, the package will help you do a pretty good job. □



Figure 7. Instant 3D main screen.

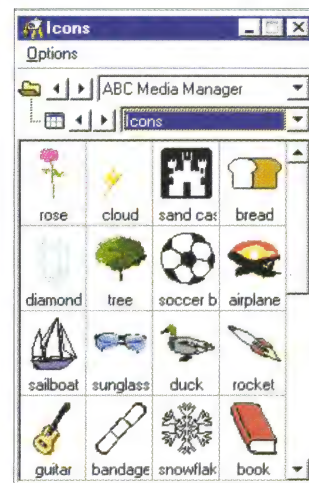


Figure 8. ABC Media Manager.

Breastfeeding

COREL MEDICAL SERIES CD-ROM REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



Breastfeeding my two children is—so far—the hardest, yet the most fulfilling, thing I've done. Watching my boys grow rosy and chubby, comforting them in an instant, and knowing that they are being fed in the way God intended; these are some of my most treasured memories. Breastfeeding is not something that came easily to us, however; along the way my children and I underwent many trials and tribulations, compounded by confusing and conflicting information.

A new addition to the Corel Medical Series, *Breastfeeding*, would have been of definite help to me during the throes of my breastfeeding problems. It contains practical suggestions for preventing, identifying and managing common complications, such as thrush, mastitis and nipple confusion. Less common situations, such as breastfeeding cleft palate infants or breastfeeding after breast reduction surgery are discussed, and pumping methods and weaning strategies are reviewed. Myths, such as the common misconception that artificial baby milk is almost as good as human milk, are soundly debunked.

There is an interesting section devoted to the cultural aspects of breastfeeding in various countries, including the World Health Organisation recommendation that infants worldwide be breastfed for a minimum of two years. A fascinating analysis is made of formula companies' marketing practices and the health costs of bottlefeeding. Among other interesting information is the history and evolution of breastfeeding, and the impact of breastfeeding on the infant (fewer allergies and illness, higher intelligence, better eyesight, etc.) and the mother (reduced risk of breast and ovarian cancer, etc.).

There are some gaps in the material—the CD-ROM doesn't address breastfeeding during

pregnancy, tandem nursing (breastfeeding siblings of different ages) and the special difficulties of large and large-breasted women. Also overlooked is one of the major causes of early weaning—perceived low milk supply as the baby feeds more frequently during growth spurts.

Breastfeeding is nicely presented, with illustrations and videos. Comprehensive references support most statements, and there is a collection of charts on which you can record feedings, bowel movements and urinary output. The package includes Stedman's Electronic Medical Dictionary and Corel Presentations and is easy to use, although the search tool is cumbersome and awkward, and Stedman's is quite intrusive. *Breastfeeding* supports multiple users, who can add their own bookmarks and annotations, invisible to other users.

Breastfeeding is aimed primarily at medical professionals who work with breastfeeding families. It will also be useful for human resource managers, child-care workers and others who work with breastfeeding mothers and their children. It is also a valuable source of information for nursing mothers themselves. □

**useful for human resource
managers, child-care workers
and nursing mothers**

Info Box

Breastfeeding

Minimum system requirements

- 486DX2-66
- 8 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1
- 256-colour display
- Sound card
- Mouse
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- 2 MB free hard disk space

Note, the CD-ROM must be in the drive for *Breastfeeding* to run.

Availability and cost

Available from most Corel retailers; otherwise contact Corel Customer Service Centre on 1 800 658 850. RRP \$99

Acknowledgements

Thanks to my online friends from the Parent-1 extended breastfeeding mailing list who have been a terrific source of breastfeeding support and information.



Figure 1. Breastfeeding main screen.

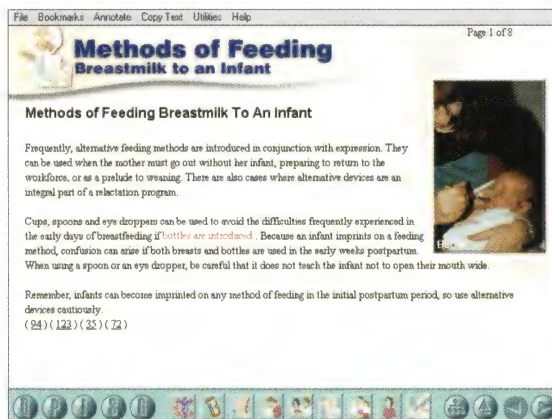


Figure 2. A typical page from Breastfeeding

COREL CD HOME REVIEW

Bob Burt



Vito Brevis is the creator (and the host) of the *Mode Event*, an arty fashion party held in an elegant hotel, but brought to you on a three-disc CD-ROM set as an interactive multimedia program. The program must be installed before it can be run on your computer, using up about 6 MB of your hard disk space, but it will need a disc in place at all times. You are given instructions within the program when there is a need to change the disc.

The party

You are not actually a guest, at least not when you start out. You are a gate-crasher. As such, there is an immediate element of risk after you take the hotel elevator to the top floor, where the *Mode Event* takes place, since you can be challenged and thrown out, or, at least, firmly requested to leave. However, having read the introductory information you will already know that all invited guests have been given a *Dome Pin*. The Dome Pin must be displayed at all times if you want to avoid ejection. So it's in your best interests to find one as soon as you can—several of the guests can help you with this when you talk to them. How can you do this? Well, the mouse cursor changes as you scan each of the scenes you reach—the word *GO*, with a click, moves you on to another scene, the word *TALK* allows you to click and listen to what the guest the cursor is pointing at has to say, and, finally, the word *EXIT* needs no further explanation. There is one “mystery” change—if the cursor turns into a pointing hand, simply experiment to see what it can do.

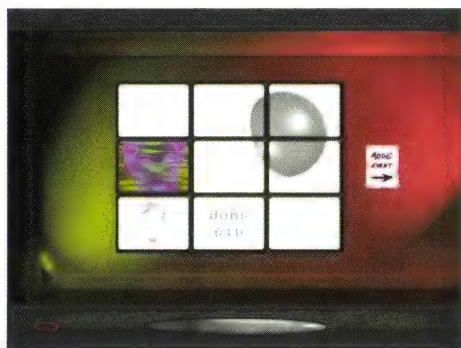


Figure 1. Introductory screen.

The Mode Machine

If the cursor, in *GO* mode, is over a computer terminal in one of the scenes, it starts an interactive art device known as a *Mode Machine*. After clicking on such a kiosk you experiment by clicking on various objects that you can see. Further, you move from one section to another within the art device by clicking the *Mode Bar* at the bottom of the Mode Machine. Changing the spelling on the Mode Bar can also create some further action.

The Mood Bar

The key to the variability of the interaction with the host and his guests lie with the *Mood Bar*. This is a coloured band that appears at the foot of the screen after you've initiated a conversation. One end of the bar is red, the other green, with graduations between the two. The red end of the bar represents a negative mood or response (a plain *No!* or general distaste), whereas the green indicates agreement or support. Usually (but not always), clicking somewhere on the Mood Bar after you have listened to what a guest has to say initially will elicit a reply, very much tempered by the kind of message you appear to have given. You will need to try different responses on the Mood Bar to generate a range of outcomes. Be warned, though, that some will get you evicted, particularly if you don't yet have a Dome Pin.

When you acquire your Dome Pin, you will discover that it has less obvious functions—it can be “used” when it appears at the bottom right of the screen. You simply click on it and then click on one of the guests...



Figure 2. The cast.

Conclusion

This program features more than 90 minutes of full-motion video, using 11 different personalities and a multitude of scenes. After you become “hooked” on this interactive medley of rather weird characters and even more weird speech (to a non-American ear), the performances of comedy and music on stage, or perhaps you've pursued a romantic liaison or even become embroiled in a crime (as your virtual self, only, of course), what then? You can further the experience as a member of *ClubMode*, an interactive drama on the World Wide Web (<http://www.clubmode.com>). □



Figure 3. One of the guests.



Figure 4. An interview.



Figure 5. Playing the Mode Machine.

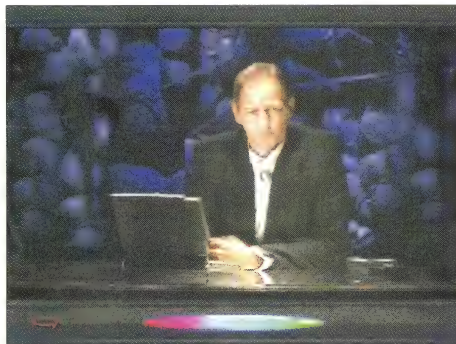


Figure 6. Talking with the host.

Info Box

Mode

Minimum system requirements

- 486 IBM-PC or compatible computer
- Windows 3.1 or Windows 95
- 8 MB RAM
- 8 MB free hard disk space
- Graphics 640 x 480 x 256
- CD-ROM Drive
- 16-bit audio
- Mouse

Availability and cost

Australian distributors:

- Tech Pacific
- Australian Corel Customer Service: Micromatch, phone 1800 658 850

RRP: \$45 (3-CD product)

Target market: 18-years-old and up

Dr Seuss's ABC

CHILDREN'S SOFTWARE

Bernadette Houghton



**fun and breezy...
young ones are
sure to enjoy**

Info Box

Dr Seuss's ABC

Minimum system requirements

- 386SX processor
- 4 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1
- DOS 3.3
- SVGA display with 256 colours
- Sound card
- Mouse
- CD-ROM drive

Availability and cost

Street price is around \$60.

Available from most major game and educational software stockists, including Myer, David Jones and Harvey Norman.

Just between you and me and Melb PC, I love Dr Seuss's wonderfully wacky world just as much as my children do. So of course I couldn't resist buying Dr Seuss's ABC when it came out on CD-ROM. True to the spirit of the book, this CD is captivating and terrific fun. I think Dr Seuss would like it, too!

Meet Aunt Annie riding her alligator, and the quick Queen of Quincy and her quacking quacker-oo. See what a fiffer-feffer-feff looks like, and a zizzer-zazzer-zuzz. Dr Seuss's characters are absurd, charming and lovable.

Part of Random House/Broderbund's Living Books range, Dr Seuss's ABC aims to entertain three- to eight-year-olds while helping them learn the alphabet. There is a page for each letter of the alphabet, with rhyming nonsense verse, appropriate animation and clickable hotspots revealing more letter-appropriate words and silly animations. Words are highlighted along with the narration, helping to develop children's reading skills. The CD also includes full-length versions of music snippets found within the pages; these tracks are playable on any normal CD-player.

Dr Seuss's ABC is an amusing, educational program. I do have some reservations about its suitability for Australian children, though, as the

CD uses North American voices and pronunciation (e.g. *zee* not *zed* for "z"); not ideal for a program that teaches the alphabet. Just as he does if he watches "Sesame Street", young Patrick speaks with a definite American accent after playing Dr Seuss's ABC! Still, it is a fun and breezy program that your young ones are sure to enjoy.

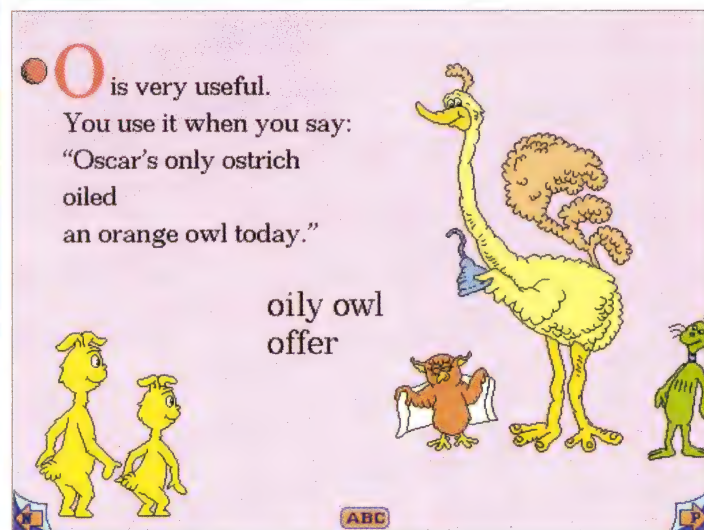


Figure 1. Dr Seuss's ABC.

Training courses

MAY - JUNE

Paul Palcsek



Applications

Advanced QuickBooks—Chart of Accounts \$45

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 5 May.
Setting up the chart of accounts and lists; get it right the first time! Reports for you, your accountant, an auditor, bank manager and tax man—Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and more. Budgets, account reconciliation, tailoring and memorising reports. Saving time and keystrokes; memorising, scheduling and group transactions. Inventory tracking and recording.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double-entry bookkeeping. You must be familiar with Windows.

Advanced QuickBooks—Creditors \$45

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 19 May.
Creditors; raising Bills and Credit Bills—what is owed by you. Paying bills; recording payment of Group Tax, Superannuation, your suppliers, the shareholders or directors. tracking and reporting.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double-entry bookkeeping. You must be familiar with Windows.

Advanced QuickBooks—Debtors \$45

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 12 May.
Debtors; Invoicing and Credit Memos—what is owed to you. Recording the receipt of payments, banking the monies, bad debts, dishonoured cheques, memorised transactions, the debit card; tracking and reporting.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double-entry bookkeeping. You must be familiar with Windows.

Booking

To book a course, please use the order form on page 32 or, for credit card orders, phone or fax the office (numbers on page 3.)

Introduction to Access v2.0 \$102

Ray Azzopardi

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Thu 22, 29 May.
This course gets you started on the road to making use of the powerful features in Access. You'll learn how to create tables and queries. Students receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: Experience with Windows and a mouse.

MS Publisher Introduction \$90

John Hulskamp

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 16, 23 Jun.
The course provides participants with an introduction to desktop publishing using MS Publisher, and an opportunity to produce a simple flyer and brochure targeted at the participants' interests.

Prerequisites: A familiarity with a word processing package such as MS Word, and Windows operation.

Office 97 Overview \$45

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 25 Jun. This session gives you an overview of the major new and revised features of Office 97, including the new Internet Web features. It helps people who are trying to decide on an office suite, or considering whether to upgrade.

Prerequisites: Acquaintance with other Office 95/3.x or other integrated Windows Office suites would enhance the experience, but no specifics are needed.

Starting Excel v5 \$177

John Fitzsimons

10.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat/Sun 17, 18 May.
Organise your facts and figures using Excel. You can use Excel as a simple database to keep track of assets or use it to keep track of your bank accounts. Excel has hundreds of uses. This course gives you a solid introduction to Microsoft Excel v5. Students receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: Experience with using a mouse and Windows.

Using Excel to analyse data \$75

Ray Azzopardi

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Thu 19, 26 Jun.
This course covers functions, formulas, pivot tables, charts, trend analysis, data sorting, subtotalling, data grouping, filtering, exporting to a database, macro recording, non-workbook files.

Prerequisites: Must have used Excel.

Communications

Using the Melb PC BBS \$45

Lynn Pollock

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 23 May.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 30 Jun.
A basic look at the Melb PC BBS with hints and tips on using all the various menu items. Also covers initial log ons and using the message areas.

Prerequisites: Must have logged onto the Melb PC BBS

Internet

Note: Internet courses are best done in the sequence shown—1 to 5; or 1, 2 or 3, 4 and 5.

1. What is the Internet? \$45

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 24 May.
9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 21 Jun.
An overview of the Melb PC Internet service. Live demonstrations of all the major programs that go to making up the Internet. Discussion of the Hardware items involved. General questions concerning Internet connections.

Prerequisites: None.

Specialist trainers required

We require additional specialist Trainers in the following subject for classes commencing later this year.

- Advanced Access

If you are interested and suitably experienced in one of these areas, please contact in the first instance lynn@melbpc.org.au or mail details to Lynn Pollock c/- the Office with your details.

2. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 3.1 \$90

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 10/11 May.
9.00 am–4 pm, Sun 1 Jun.
This is a basic course exclusively for Windows 3.1/3.11 users. Hands-on individual installation of Windows 3.x Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install basic Windows 3.x Internet software or novice users of the Internet.

Prerequisites: Must have a good working knowledge of Windows 3.1.

3. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 95 \$90

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun 10/11 May.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 15 Jun.
This is a basic course exclusively for Win 95 users. Hands-on individual installation of Win 95 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install Win 95 Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want to use the inbuilt Win 95 32-bit TCP/IP software.

Prerequisites: Must have a good working knowledge of Win 95.

Notes

Courses are held at the group's premises, usually in the training room. Some courses are held in the sig room, so check when you arrive.

For more details see the BBS or the group's Web pages.

Enrolments usually close a week before the course starting date.

The address is:
2nd Floor, 66 Albert Road
South Melbourne VIC 3205.

There is normally plenty of nearby parking in the evenings or at weekends.

4. Effectively using Web Browsers

\$60

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 24 May.

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 21 Jun.

Complete demonstration and explanation of all features and configurations in the latest versions of Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring new helper applications, managing bookmarks or favourites, and tips and tricks to maximise your browser usage. Discussion on various searching techniques for locating information on the Web and other browser-related issues.

Prerequisites: Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

5. More using Melb PC Internet service

\$90

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 25 May.

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 22 Jun.

Complete demonstration and explanation of e-mail (advanced packages) FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, IRC Network, newsgroups and offline readers, list servers, session timers and more. In addition, connection problems are discussed as well as general tips and tricks to improve your connection time. A set of detailed instructions are discussed and practised, detailing how to upgrade or add to your Internet software without causing major problems or heartaches.

Prerequisites: Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

Beginners' HTML/Web page authoring

\$90

Steven Goldate

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 8, 15 May.

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 5, 12 Jun.

The course covers the principles of HTML (HyperText Markup Language) for writing Web pages for the Internet. Participants learn to write HTML using a text based and a WYSIWYG editor. Covers design aspects, "Do's" and "Don't's", image file formats, uploading files to a server, getting noticed, and more.

Prerequisites: Basic Windows experience assumed. Experience using a text editor preferred.

Operating Systems, Diagnostics, Hardware

Advanced Windows 95 \$45

Lynn Pollock

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 9 May.

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 13 Jun.

Complete hands-on examination of the advanced features found in the Win 95 operating system. Includes adding and configuring new hardware, multiple user configurations, Registry control and editing, advanced system maintenance, backing up essential files, communications and more!

Prerequisites: Attendees must have a good working knowledge of Win 95 and have obtained an understanding of the operating system's functions.

Computer basics

\$120

Mary Levens

6.30 pm–8.30 pm,

Tue 3, 10, 17 Jun, 24 Jun.

Take control of your computer with this hands-on guided discovery of dos-based computing. Covers terminology, basic dos commands, directory structure, file types, brief discussion of hardware and software. Knowledge of these topics is a prerequisite for other courses.

Prerequisites: No prior computing experience required. Students must have frequent access to a dos-based PC outside of class.

Hardware upgrade and repairs

\$45

Tom Coleman

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 26 May.

This course shows beginners how to upgrade their PCs, replace components. Troubleshooting hints are also given.

Prerequisites: None. No electronic or mechanical experience required.

How to buy a computer

\$10/\$60

Members: \$10. Non-members: \$60

(includes first year's subscription.)

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 28 May.

10.30 am–1.30 pm, Sat 28 Jun.

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips, no sales talk!

Prerequisites: None.

Introduction to networks

\$90

Len Krois

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 3 May.

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 11, 18 Jun.

This shows you how to connect two or more computers so that you can share computer resources.

Prerequisites: You must be familiar with Windows 3.x or Win 95.

Introduction to UNIX

\$45

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 27 May.

UNIX/UNIX basics for people that want a basic feel for the open systems environment. LINUX is a popular shareware version of UNIX that runs on IBM compatible PCs. The session includes: logging onto a UNIX system, finding your way around, manipulating files, viewing and editing text files, using the on-line text manual.

Prerequisites: Command line computing knowledge preferred

Overview of Windows 95

\$45

Barry Fredrickson

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 21 May.

9.00 am–12 noon, Sun 29 Jun.

Take control of your computer with this hands-on guided discovery of Win 95-based computing. Covers terminology, directory structure, file types. Knowledge of these topics is prerequisite for other courses.

Prerequisites: No prior computing experience required.

Starting Windows 95

\$139.50

Len Krois

9.00 am–5.30 pm, Sat 14 Jun.

Introduces the Win 95 environment to the computer novice. You'll learn basic Windows jargon and terminology, how to accomplish everyday tasks and all of the skills you'll need to work in Win 95. Students receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: None. However, you have an advantage if you have had some exposure to computers and have used a mouse.

Upgrade to Windows 95

\$139.50

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Tue 6, 13, 20 May.

This course is for Windows v3.1/v3.11 users moving to Win 95. A thorough overview of all of the new features you are getting with Win 95 so you can quickly convert your Windows 3.1 skills to the new Win 95 arena.

Prerequisites: You should be familiar with Windows v3.1 to the level of the Starting Windows v3.1 course.

Members' free ads



SAVE A DOLLAR

Member-to-member deals

FOR SALE

A4 size printer paper:

Ice blue, 80 gsm \$10/500 sheets

Yellow, 80 gsm \$10/500 Sheets

Pink, 80 gsm \$10/500 sheets

White satin, 135 gsm \$8/250 sheets

White gloss, 170 gsm \$8/250 sheets

Smoke blue, 130 gsm \$7/100 sheets

Smoke grey, 130 gsm \$7/100 sheets

Phone (03) 9587 3227 6–9 pm

weekdays or after 4 pm Sundays

Genius 12 x 18 digitiser with software, puck and stylus. Essential for CAD. \$250 ono

Flight Simulator pack of software. MS Flight Simulator v5.1 on CD-ROM, French shareware collection of FS software on CD-ROM, Apollo Scenery Designer CD-ROM, Fight Adventures No. 1 by Apollo CD-ROM, Jefffighter 11 CD and TFX CD-ROM, all with manuals and vgc. \$150 ono

CD-ROM player and controller card brand new. \$100 ono

Netcomm pocket modem. 2400 and 9600 fax. Cheap fax alternative, excellent condition. \$50 ono

Mine map geological mapping and mine planning software. Complete version with manuals. \$150 ono

Noel Laidlaw (03) 5475 1126 or laidlaw@bendigo.net.au

One IBM (Cyrix) 686 P120 100 MHz CPU including heat sink & fan. \$75
One Interlink Hotlink 4s Fax/Modem 28.8 kbps (V.Fast class) (Fax class I & II) complete with cables, manual & Quick Link II fax software. \$90

Russ (03) 9772 6502 (AH)

Compaq Notebook computer LTE 286 with 1.664 MB memory, (extra memory can handle large spread-sheets) 40 MB HDD, 1.44 MB FDD, separate extra numeric keypad, 2 batteries, charger, soft carry case, large carrying case, WordPerfect 5.1, MS-DOS 6.22, all manuals, boxes, good condition—a very good portable word processor, \$350
Canon Bubble Jet printer BJ-200ex, 360 x 360 dpi resolution b&w printer with 100-sheet feeder, manuals, cables, box. \$150
Both notebook and printer together. \$400

Peter (03) 9882 3510 Hawthorn

East

Tape backup unit, Colorado Jumbo 120 internal, complete with original manuals and seven DC2120 Tapes and software for Windows 95. (Backs up 80 MB in 19 minutes.) \$120 ono

Ron (03) 9889 6623 (Glen Iris) or rosco@melbpc.org.au

Two Corel CD-Home titles: "The Interactive Alphabet"; "The Blue Tortoise" (Ages 3–6).

Two The Alphabet Pals titles: "Why Do We Have To"; "Safety Scavenger Hunt" (Ages 2–7).

One Mayo Clinic Learning Series title "Safety Monkey".

One Starpress title "Dr Healthensteins Body Fun" (Ages 8+).

All titles will run on PC or Mac except "Safety Monkey" (PC only). \$30 each ono.

Paul (03) 9743 2690, paul4deb@axs.com.au

MS Word 6. \$75

QEMM 7 memory manager v7. \$50
Wildmail echomail tosser for Wildcat. \$10

Norton NT Tools latest version at \$35 off new price. \$80

MS NT on CD and disk versions 3.51 and 4 with manuals and registration. \$210

Ken Walker (03) 9886 3139 or kgw@alphalink.com.au

Uniden PRO 310e Portable CB radio, with rechargeable battery, car cigarette lighter adapter, magnetic antenna base and carry case. Use hand-held and free-standing or in-vehicle. As new. \$50 ono

Six black vinyl-covered stackable visitors chairs (new price \$49.88 at Office Works). Exc. cond. \$25 each

One office table 1.8 m x 0.9 m, laminated top, black square steel frame and legs. Average condition. \$25 (free to the purchaser of the six chairs.)

ACT! contact manager (v3.0) for Win 95/NT. Disks, CD-ROM and manual, unopened. (Street price \$245). \$120 ono.

Six (three new in boxes) Lantastic 2 Mbps LAN cards, software, various cables, etc. Will sell to best offer.

Corel Art Show 6 and Wild Board Games CD-ROMs. Unopened. \$10 the pair

Peter (03) 9876 2871

Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth

COREL CD HOME REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



Info Box

**Thumbnail Theater:
Macbeth**

Minimum system requirements

- 486DX2-66
- 8 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1
- 256-colour display
- 8-bit audio capabilities
- Mouse
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- 2 MB free hard disk space

Note, the package runs directly from the CD-ROM.

Availability and cost

Available from most Corel retailers; otherwise contact Corel Customer Service Centre on 1 800 658 850.

RRP \$64

Shakespeare in the 1970s was never such fun! When I think of my schooldays, the picture that comes most frequently to mind is the agony of trying to make sense of the quaint language in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I could handle differential equations with equanimity; organic chemistry was no mystery; Sophocles was a snap. But the agony of learning Shakespeare remains etched in my mind so deeply that I approached the latest Corel CD Home offering with trepidation.

Now, I don't know whether it's just that I'm older and wiser, or *Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth* has cleared away the mists, but suddenly Shakespeare doesn't seem so bad after all.

Targeted at students from age 12 upwards, *Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth* revolves around an animated synopsis of Shakespeare's play. Various topics—all written in a light and witty tone—help to put Shakespeare and his works into the context of his times.

The CD-ROM is easy to navigate and you can study in any of three ways:

- Watch Me, which contains the nine-minute animated cartoon.
- Guide Me, which also contains the animation, but allows you to stop it at any time to explore topics related to the story.

**a great way
to reinforce
learning about
Shakespeare**

- Self Guide, where you can freewheel anywhere you like throughout the CD-ROM.
- The Guide Me and Self Guide sections include the following topics:
 - The Lives and Times of Shakespeare: discusses Shakespeare and daily life in Renaissance England.
 - Characters in Macbeth: character studies of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, MacDuff, Duncan and Malcolm.
 - The Supernatural: information about superstition and witchcraft in 16th century England, including a discussion on the supernatural elements in the play.
 - The Works of Shakespeare: a complete

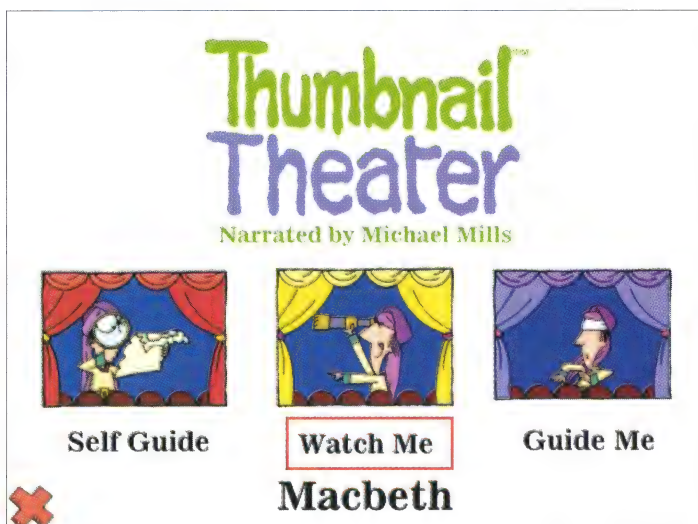


Figure 1. Main screen of *Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth*.



Figure 2. Typical informational screen.

list of his plays, as well as information on the quartos and folios, the alternation of verse and prose in his plays, and modern expressions coined by Shakespeare.

- **The Theatre:** discusses the theatre as an institution of popular culture in Shakespeare's times, the importance of children in theatrical productions and examples of how censorship affected Shakespeare's works.
- **Scotland the Brave:** information on the real Macbeth and other historic Scots, Scotland's best-known castles, and weaponry and warfare in Shakespeare's times. Also contains a thumbnail history of Scotland with dates and brief descriptions of pivotal events.

Of course, you can copy and print the full text of Macbeth in part or entirety.

The CD-ROM contains fascinating tidbits of information. For example, did you know that pre-pubescent boys performed all the female roles in Shakespeare's plays, and this is why Shakespeare's characters court with words rather than kisses. Also, theatres in Shakespeare's time were round and roofless, and 240 of the original 1000 copies of Shakespeare's First Folio are still around today. There is much more riveting stuff along those lines.

Thumbnail Theater: Macbeth is certainly a great way to reinforce learning about Shakespeare in general and Macbeth in particular. I'm even tempted to reread *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. □



Figure 3. *Macbeth: the animation.*

The Neverhood

GAME REVIEW



Bob Burt

**provides
numerous
interesting
and amusing
challenges...
will appeal
to all ages**

It was bound to happen soon, of course... Here, we have an interactive animated game that requires, *as a minimum*, a multimedia PC with a Pentium 75 or better and, would you believe, a quad speed CD-ROM drive. As I am still struggling along with a 486 DX66 and a dual-speed CD-ROM drive, this appeared to rule me out of this particular game play. However, all was not lost. The installation tested my CD-ROM drive and advised me that it was not quite up to the standard recommended, so I may find some of the action not as smooth as desired. As I do have 16 MB of RAM installed, I found that the pauses and stumbles, while they were too frequent to derive full pleasure from the game as a form of relaxation, were at least bearable to complete this review.

The Neverhood is a product of DreamWorks Interactive, a joint venture between Microsoft and DreamWorks SKG.

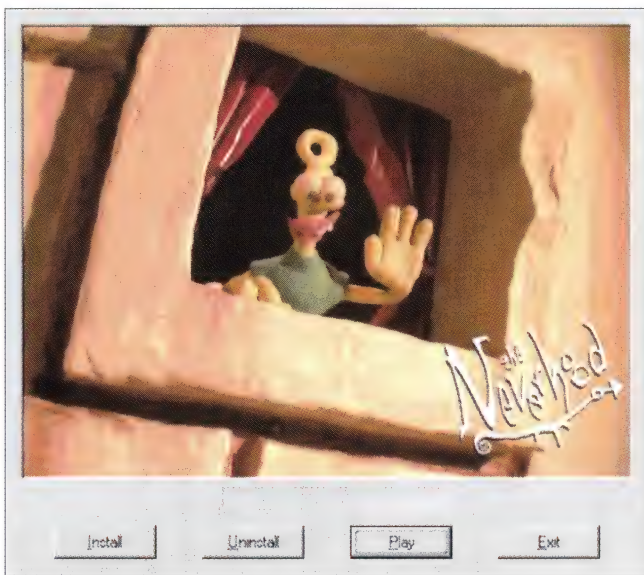
Design features

This game is a fascinating product. It was built up from sets and puppets, all of which were covered in clay. Camera shots were taken to produce each frame of animation. As a result, both lighting and texture are dramatically effective. Exaggerated movements are introduced for comical relief, assisted by good use of sound effects. The painstaking process of clay-puppet animation has certainly generated an inspired environment for some very interesting game play, with plenty of action spiced with both suspense and humour.

The story line

You control *Klaymen*, the floppy-limbed hero of this story. Klaymen is placed in a magical world, the Neverhood, formed by Hoburg, its lonely ruler. Magic clay brings life to its newly sculpted inhabitants. One of Hoburg's





Ready to Play.

creations, Klogg, has nothing but evil on his newly-sculpted mind, so (predictably), he plans to overthrow the ruler.

Klaymen's task is to gain knowledge so that he can restore peace to the Neverhood. Barring his way are a multitude of puzzles, freakish oversize crustaceans and other outlandish obstacles. Fortunately, Klaymen (or you, as you control him) can afford to make mistakes—the unique clay constitution of the character almost ensures that he cannot die—on most occasions he simply resprouts missing limbs and can even grow a

new head. Certainly Klaymen received more than his fair share of bashings and other misfortunes whilst he was under my control.

Traditionally, plenty of trap doors, hidden hallways and other bizarre and secret places are included in the 60 or so interactive areas available. If you need help, one scene, which you must revisit for the purpose, offers the chance to grab a note from a hook on the wall. This note provides a helpful message, which changes its content as you progress through the medley of puzzles. The game offers players an estimated 40 hours of gameplay.

Info Box

The Neverhood

Minimum System Requirements

- Multimedia PC with Pentium 75 MHz processor
- 8 MB of RAM (16 MB recommended)
- 4-speed CD-ROM drive
- SVGA monitor
- 8-bit Windows-compatible sound card and speakers
- 10 MB hard disk space
- Windows 95

Availability and cost

Distributed in Australia by

Microsoft Pty Ltd
Microsoft Park
65 Epping Road
North Ryde NSW 2113
RRP: \$79

Classification: General (all ages).

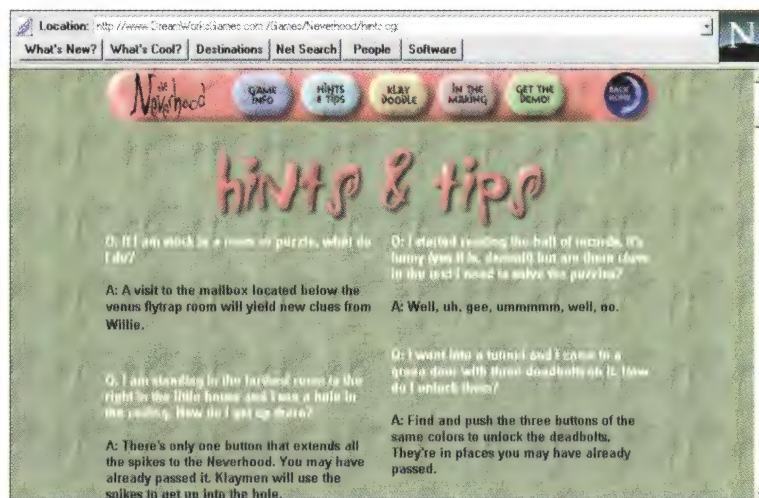
The screen shots

Since much of the appeal of this product lies in the clay modelling and lighting effects, screen shots of some of the action is virtually essential. Unfortunately, Neverhood uses its own screen drivers once the game has started and these evidently do not permit correctly coloured and textured screen captures to be placed on the clipboard.

Fortunately, DreamWorks runs some interesting and helpful Web pages, which include some suitable shots of the characters and scenes from the Neverhood, some of which are reproduced here, with thanks. The sites are <http://www.neverhood.com> and <http://www.dreamworksgames.com>. They contain many tips and guides to playing the game.

Conclusion

The Neverhood provides numerous interesting and amusing challenges and will appeal to all ages. □



The Neverhood on the Internet.

Below and previous page: Images from the DreamWorks Web site.



Peter's PC Update Puzzle

WIN A COREL CD-ROM

Peter Smith



These puzzles are designed to be solved without using a computer—if a bird-brain can write them, another bird-brain can solve them!

Solve the puzzle (you may use plain paper or a photocopy—you do not need to mutilate your *PC Update*) and send your entry to

Peter's PC Update Puzzle
May
PO Box 14
Ringwood VIC 3134

to arrive by Friday 30 May.

We'll publish the solutions and the winner in the July *PC Update*.

No, entries cannot be accepted by fax or e-mail; good old-fashioned snail-mail gives everyone an equal opportunity and won't clog up my e-mail or fax! Also please don't send entries to the Melb PC office—they are busy enough.

Mother	
Colour	
Daughters	
Mother	
Colour	
Daughters	
Mother	
Colour	
Daughters	
Mother	
Colour	
Daughters	
Mother	
Colour	
Daughters	

Prize

The Corel CD *Pandora's Box*.

Mother's Day Muddle

The five Stuart sisters, Sarah, Shirley, Sandra, Sharon and Stephanie, each have two daughters, the elder of which are Sally, Stella, Sabina, Sheila and Sonia. With the help of their younger sisters, the daughters chose different chrysanthemums (one set of which was white) for their Mother's day gifts. Who is in each family and what colour flowers did each mother receive?

1. Stephanie isn't Sabina's mother.
2. Samantha is Sandra's daughter.
3. Sonia bought orange chrysanthemums but Sybil purchased purple.
4. Shirley liked her yellow flowers.
5. Sharon is Stella's mother.
6. Sadie is Sabina's sister, they didn't choose red chrysanthemums.
7. None of Sonia, Sheila, Sybil and Samantha are sisters.
8. Sybil, Sylvia and Sadie are three of Shirley's nieces.
9. Stephanie isn't Sophie's mother.

April's results

The winner is Robert Foster from Sunshine.

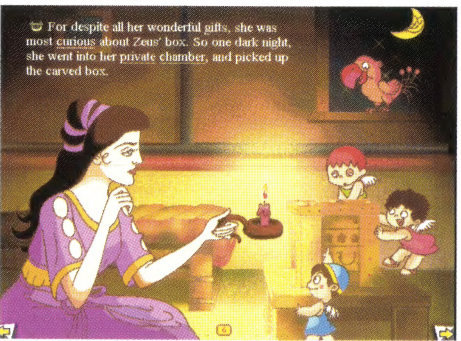
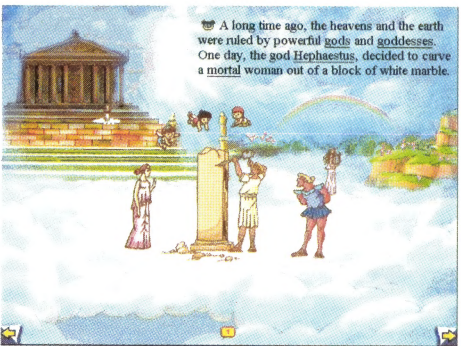
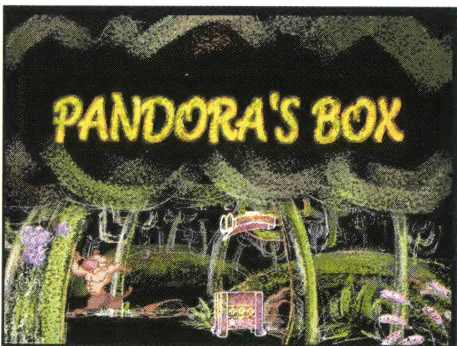
Solutions

• Strained Relations

Brian, Mary, George, June
Bob, Kath, Edward, Jane
Barry, Prue, Ian, Joan
Ben, Noeline, Harry, Jill
Bill, Lynn, Fred, Jenny
Bert, Olive, David, Jean

• Permambulating Proverb

It is ill sitting at Rome and striving with the Pope.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

John Swale



Answers received

From: John M Graham for Steve Sandford on converting Commodore files. The first question is—*Can a Commodore disk be read by DOS on a PC?* My guess is no. Somewhere in our freeware/shareware files is a disk that has several translators on it. I would expect that, because Commodore was widely used it would be on the disk. If it isn't then check on the disk for the name of the group that wrote the disk and contact them. I needed to translate from Sharp 5600 to DOS and they sent me files to use on my PC that did the job. If I remember correctly it cost US\$20. This was years ago. I do not know whether the company still exists and I cannot find the old disks. Secondly, if you can read the files on a PC but they are not immediately useful, then a very simple BASIC or PASCAL program can do a byte by byte conversion to modern ASCII and at the same time convert some of the control symbols to visible characters. When you can look at the file and it makes a bit of sense, then write another program to convert it to whatever is the desired final destination. If Steve does not receive a better reply he can contact me for more info if he wants to.

From: Ben Page about Commodore 128. Try to download a program called Personal C64, which will not only convert the files, but also comes with (I think) a text file on how to make a cable to link up the old disk drive to an IBM.

From: Ben Page. When using the DIR command, the actual space is given in bytes. Remembering that a megabyte is not 1,000,000 bytes, rather it is 1,048,576 bytes, in Explorer it does not give free space in bytes, rather megabytes. This is quite annoying, and I don't know why Microsoft do it. You'll notice on an empty 1.4 MB disk, it says it only has 1.38 MB free.

From: Marc Sapper: Dial up network unable to negotiate a compatible connection. This is caused (primarily) if Windows 95 has not got TCP/IP installed. This can be checked through Control Panel, Network, Configuration. If it is not listed then use the ADD button. I came across this when I accidentally removed it. It took me a day to twig what had happened and I was getting the same message as the questioner. If it is installed then it suggests an error in the connections settings (somebody did not read the Melb PC manuals on scripting which give a very good step by step guide) in Dial Up networking

Questions and answers

Q I use an HP 4L printer on a 486 PC. A DOS print takes 3-4 minutes for a simple file. Windows 3.11 will not print. If I do a DOS print first and then start Windows it will work. I have tried changing printer cables without success. The printer works satisfactorily with another computer.

A Re-install the printer drivers. Check if there is a newer version of the software on the HP internet site or their BBS. If that doesn't work it could be a faulty printer driver chip. Try using a cheap printer card set up as LPT2.

Q I put Windows 95 on my 486/66 with 64 MB of memory. Every so often it will go away "wool gathering." Esc will sometimes get it back otherwise it remains frozen. It can happen with the Windows 95 screen interface, within programs or when printing.

A A similar problem turned out to be the motherboard with a Cyrix 486 DLC chip. These chips are known to have this problem.

Q I was using Eudora and Netscape before I installed the new Internet kit. Now I cannot open Eudora as I get an error stating that it cannot open the POP server. Netscape will fall down occasionally. I have no longer got the original Trumpet, etc, so I cannot go back to the original setup.

A You will have to reconfigure Eudora and ensure that the POP server is correctly set up.

Q If I save the text from an HTML and save the picture separately, how can I open the HTML with both the text and images?

A In Netscape 3 open the HTML file for edit. Netscape will say you can't edit the file and ask for a local save directory. This will save all the pictures. If the pictures do not appear you open the file again in the editor, right mouse click on the position where the picture should be. There will be a subdirectory for the picture, edit it and remove the subdirectory name leaving only the picture name and save the page. All the pictures should now appear.

Q When I delete files from my hard disk, LVIEW still shows them there in the history.

A LVIEW stores the file names in the INI file. Either edit them out of the INI file or use LVIEW to open several files which will then be the ones in the file list.

Unanswered questions

Q I have just replaced a 486 with a 6x86 and everything was OK until I installed Windows 95. Windows 95 works. When I try installing applications I get the message that the registry is corrupt please go back and use the old one. All the entries in the panels that you open have .LNK on the end of them. This happens if I install Windows 95 full version or as an upgrade to Windows 3.11.

Q I have the latest OEM version of Windows 95. This is only available with a new machine. When starting Windows 95 you can hit F8 to get the menu. There are several items on the menu, the last of which is "Restart your previous version of DOS." If I do this it starts DOS 6.22 all right. Then if I try to restart the machine it almost gets to the message "Starting Windows 95" then it hangs. It is trying to start on the DOS 6.22 COMMAND.COM. When I did an upgrade to update the system, it started to upgrade, then it asked for the OEM number which is on the front of the pack. I put in the number but it was rejected. The dealer had used a different version when setting up the system. I have a diskette with the Windows 95 system on it and I have to SYS the system back on. Has anyone got a better work around?

Q I have an IBM PS/1 that has had a hard disk and memory upgrade with non-IBM parts. There have been many problems that I cannot resolve. Is there anyone else who has gone through this type of upgrade?

Over to You

Please contact me if you have any comments on the answers given; can provide a reply for the unanswered questions; or if you cannot attend the monthly meeting and would like a question asked and included in this column.

To contact me: write to me care of the office; leave a message on the BBS or telephone me on
(03) 9270 6115 BH
(03) 9857 5567 AH
or e-mail me at jswale@melbpc.org.au

Note: Please contact commercial distributors before asking a question here. In all cases mention version numbers.

Q From Ron Whitley: I'm familiar with Windows 95 in changing the Desktop display and Screen saver backdrops, but would like to know how to add more pictures from another source.

Q From Mike Williams: I cannot activate the spell checker on Internet Explorer (Mail). It is supposed to share the spell checker with MS Office 95 which I have installed. What is the trick?

Q From Owen Bentley: Below is a copy of my e-mail to my ISP (InterneX) about a problem with passwords in Netscape Mail. I also use the Melb PC internet service, and I don't encounter the "password entry dialog" box with that service. Can anyone provide any tips I could try? When I tried to access my mail a "password entry dialog" box came up with the message:

The POP3 server responded:
benson logon failed (1326)
at point 3 in PASS
Please enter a new password.

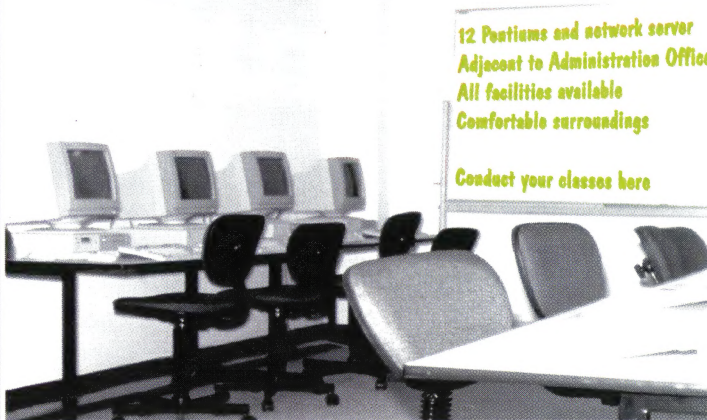
Neither of my usual passwords worked and the box came up with each attempt. ☐

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South Melbourne
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Ph: (03) 9699 6222
Fax: (03) 9699 6499

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ACA Pacific for the donation of a Diamond Stealth Video card for **PC Update** production.

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SONY Australia for the supply of equipment for **PC Update** production.

SEALCORP Computer Products for the supply of equipment for the group's Communications Centre.

Symantec for ongoing contributions. ☐

Monthly meeting
All members and guests
welcome

Pharmacy College
381 Royal Parade
Parkville

6.00 pm
First Wednesday
each month except
January

An average of over 500 members and guests attend our monthly meetings, which provide an excellent forum to introduce and release new products to those who are both users and decision makers. Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener.

Stan Johnstone Meetings convener
and administrator
Phone: (03) 9578 3091 BH
e-mail stanj@melbpc.org.au

Next meeting

7 May Desktop Publishing
Some new software
and A demonstration of
how Peter Smith puts
PC Update together

Plus:

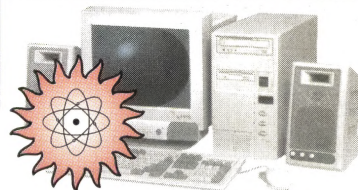
- The usual giveaways
- Random Access
- Shareware Library Sales
- Socialising
- Don't forget the Waffle SIG after the meeting.

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- 16-bit sound card
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16M RAM 1.6G HDD
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